

Meth Exposure and Prevention

Toxic chemical fumes, spills, explosions, and fires make meth labs dangerous places. Meth cooks, their family members, and first responders are often the ones who are injured (or worse) in illegal drug labs. Waste dumped from meth labs can expose people to toxic chemicals. People picking up litter on the side of a road have been injured from meth lab waste dumps.

Exposures to high levels of contaminants found in meth labs can cause;

- shortness of breath
- cough
- chest pain
- dizziness
- lack of coordination
- chemical irritation
- burns to the skin, eyes, mouth and nose
- in severe cases, death

If you experience any of these symptoms, contact your health care provider.

Symptoms have occurred in people who entered a meth lab after the bust was completed, but before the property was properly cleaned and ventilated.

- Headache
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Fatigue (tiredness)

If you experience any of these symptoms, contact your health care provider.

Not much is known about the long-term health effects from these labs. Long-term exposure to meth labs is a big concern, especially for children living in a very contaminated environment. However, there is scientific evidence from animal and human toxicity studies that shows the chemicals used in the manufacture of meth can cause a range of health effects, including;

- cancer
- damage to the brain, liver and kidneys
- birth defects
- reproductive problems, such as miscarriages.