



MSA Gas Detection

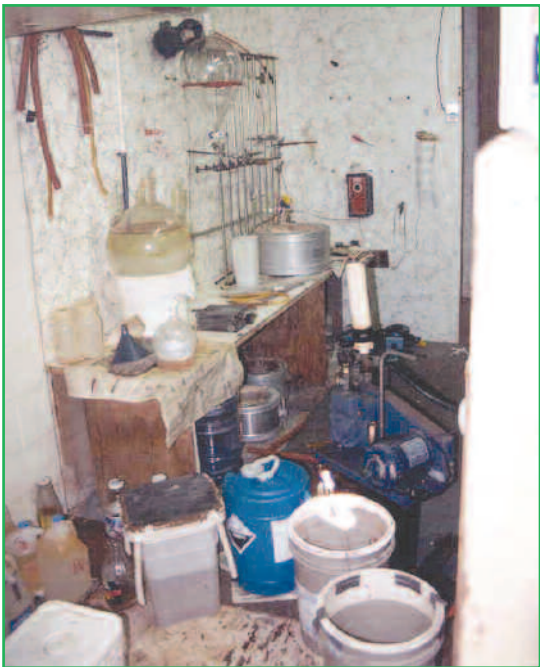
[for Clandestine Drug Labs]

The number of clandestine drug labs or “clan labs” has increased dramatically in recent years, chiefly due to the popularity of methamphetamine, a particularly potent and highly addictive chemical stimulant. Methamphetamine, a.k.a “crystal meth” or “crank” can be produced cheaply and quickly in small spaces, using common kitchen equipment and drugstore items.

Several “cook” methods exist using or producing a menu of toxic and combustible substances, among them pseudoephedrine, lithium metal strips, hydrochloric acid, acetone, iodine, lye, hydriodic acid, red phosphorus, mercuric chloride, phosphine and ammonia. Hotplates, strainers, garden hoses, cooking pots and other ordinary household items are used to outfit a small operator’s laboratory.

The abuse of methamphetamine can result in serious health conditions to users and those associated with them; neighbors, first responders, medical personnel and cleanup crews. Meth users risk long-term effects such as aggression, psychosis and heart, brain and nerve damage. First responders and health workers risk exposure to toxic substances while treating a lab operator injured in a clan lab explosion.

Methamphetamine manufacturing can cause environmental concerns; groundwater contamination of property, plus damage to homes due to lab explosions caused by careless handling of combustible gases. It is imperative that those entrusted with the task of seeking out and closing down clan labs employ proper portable gas detection instruments to reduce the risk associated with these dangerous undertakings.



Photoionization detectors such as the MSA Sirius® Multigas Detector are an excellent choice for workers at clan lab sites, as superior technology for this application will be at their disposal. PIDs measure volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as benzene, toluene and acetone, all typical substances for meth production. PIDs utilize an ultraviolet lamp to ionize chemical compounds, then display its concentration in parts-per-million (ppm). PIDs also outperform other technologies in response speed as well as the ability to detect very low levels of gas concentrations.

The MSA FiveStar® Alarm uses specific electrochemical sensors to detect other clan lab contaminants such as ammonia and phosphine. The MSA Solaris® Multigas Detector and Orion® Multigas Detector as well as the FiveStar Alarm will reliably detect combustible and various toxic gases, and oxygen deficiency.

The proper gas detection instruments are essential tools for clan lab site work, offering the ideal combination of ease of use, response speed, sensitivity and versatility so vital to providing maximum benefit and safety to workers and their communities.

For more information on these and other MSA products, contact MSA Customer Service at 1-800-MSA-2222 or refer to the following publications:

- Sirius Multigas Detector Bulletin#0803-06-MC
- FiveStar Alarm Bulletin#0816-07-MC
- Solaris Multigas Detector Bulletin#0816-29-MC
- Orion Multigas Detector Bulletin#0816-29-MC



Sirius Multigas Detector



FiveStar Alarm



Solaris Multigas Detector



Orion Multigas Detector

Note: This Bulletin contains only a general description of the products shown. While uses and performance capabilities are described, under no circumstances shall the products be used by untrained or unqualified individuals and not until the product instructions including any warnings or cautions provided have been thoroughly read and understood. Only they contain the complete and detailed information concerning proper use and care of these products.



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