



## Branch County Substance Abuse Task Force

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### ***The Branch County Substance Abuse Task Force Warns About the Hazards of 'One Pot' Meth Labs***

The Branch County Substance Abuse Task Force warns residents to be careful of picking up discarded pop bottles along the roadside. It might just be a meth lab.

The 'one pot' method, according to a 2011 Michigan State Police report, now accounts for more than 75% of all meth labs. It uses a 2 liter pop bottle as the container to create the 'shake and bake' drug from a handful of easily available household items. This method of drug production is even more dangerous than the makeshift, clandestine lab because it makes it more mobile and the substance more volatile.

According to Keith Eichler, Branch County Undersheriff and Chairman of the Task Force, "Now, meth cooks can carry all the ingredients they need in a back pack, and produce the drug while driving around the country side. Once they get high, they discard the bottle, which contains environmental hazardous waste, out the window."

The new mobile lab poses several dangers for the public. This method of cooking meth is more unstable and can easily turn into a fireball if a bottle top is unscrewed too quickly. Several states have linked flash fires to this type of meth production. In addition, residual toxins produced by meth production are being dumped by the roadside. The chemicals and components used to cook methamphetamine are extremely toxic and hazardous. Accidental exposure to discarded methamphetamine chemicals and equipment can cause serious health injuries including burns, collapsed lungs and nerve damage. The public is cautioned that if they find discarded bottles containing unknown substances to leave them alone. Do not pick them up. Instead, they should contact their local law enforcement agency or call 911.

Methamphetamine (or Meth for short) is an addictive stimulant that strongly activates certain systems in the brain. Sometimes it is called: Chalk, Crank, Croak, Crypto, Crystal, Fire, Glass, Meth, Tweek, White Cross, Tina. This crystal-like powdered substance sometimes comes in large rock-like chunks. When the powder flakes off the rock, the shards look like glass, which is another nickname for Meth.

It is highly addictive and dangerous. Research has shown that users, overtime, will take higher doses of the drug, take it more frequently, or change the way they take it to get the same rush or high that small amounts of Meth once gave them. Meth impacts the central nervous system, causing hyperthermia, irritability, insomnia, confusion, tremors, convulsions, anxiety, paranoia, and aggressiveness. Both hyperthermia and convulsions can result in death. It can also cause increased heart rate and blood

pressure and can cause irreversible damage to blood vessels in the brain, producing strokes.

Public awareness is a key strategy in the fight against Methamphetamine production and use. If you suspect someone is making Methamphetamine, contact your local law enforcement agency and you can choose to remain anonymous. For further information contact the Branch County Task Force at 279.5337 or visit their website at [www.bhsj.org/satf](http://www.bhsj.org/satf).

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