



PRESS RELEASE

Fairfield County Sheriff's Office
Dave Phalen, Sheriff
221 E. Main St.
Lancaster, OH 43130

Contact Person: Sheriff Dave Phalen
Phone: (740) 652-7900, Ext. 7252
Fax: (740) 687-6856

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – ROAD CLEAN-UP VOLUNTEERS BEWARE OF METH LAB WASTE

[Lancaster, Ohio, May 2, 2011] With the weather improving and groups of volunteers heading out to clean our roadways, the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association and the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office want to make sure these groups are aware of a new and dangerous hazard.

Volunteers who clean-up roadside litter should watch for potentially toxic debris discarded from illicit methamphetamine labs. Meth is a highly addictive stimulant which can be made using common household chemicals and equipment along with cold remedies containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine (such as Sudafed or Actifed).

Clean-up crews who come across materials to make the drug can be burned or have their lungs damaged from inhaling fumes. If you encounter any of the signs of a meth lab, leave the area immediately and call 911. Do not touch anything if you suspect it may be meth lab waste. The waste can be extremely dangerous and may even be booby-trapped. Entire labs can be found in tool boxes, coolers or other storage containers. Mobile meth labs are becoming more common. Labs are sometimes run out of car trunks or RVs and then discarded along the highway.

Do not try to remove unknown or suspected toxic substances. Notify the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office of the location of these items immediately at 740-652-7900. Meth lab waste is very serious. Your safety comes first.