

How methamphetamine affects the body and mind:



The physical effects of Meth on the body are shown to a slight degree in the above pictures. The brain on the left is a normal brain. The brain on the right belonged to a meth user.

Meth courses through the body causing many effects, such as increased blood pressure and heart rate, dilated pupils, blurred vision, dry mouth, sweating and increased level of activity, and excitement. The user will also experience a decreased appetite.

The meth user will experience long periods without sleep, or eating. They will be restless, pick at their skin to get rid of what they call the meth mite, become easily agitated and aggressive. Their skin will

become leather like, open sores will appear, rapid weight loss, paranoia and tooth decay.

How to tell if you have a meth lab in your neighborhood.

1. Noxious Odors
2. Excessive Traffic
3. Chemical containers
4. Exhaust fans running all hours
5. Large quantities of Acetone, Drano, cold and sinus tablets
6. Filthy living conditions
7. No visible means of support
8. Darkened windows
9. Packs of lithium batteries
10. Frequent deliveries



The purpose of this flyer is to inform you the public, the risks and dangers of Methamphetamine.

We hope that this will help open your eyes on how methamphetamine is destroying our neighbor hoods and children.

Use this number to report suspicious activity that may involve a meth lab or user. This information will be kept confidential and anonymous. Call this number even if you're uncertain. Every piece of information is valuable, and what may seem unimportant, really is.

When calling this number you will be asked your name. You do not have to give your name unless you want to. You will then be given a number. Use the number assigned to you when you call back with more information. This helps us to keep track of the information you give.

After information is received it will be verified by law enforcement. This allows us to prove to the court, that the information came from a reliable source. Then when you provide more information we can prove that information given to us in the past from this source has been proven reliable.

It has been the idea of the public that unless your name is given law enforcement will not act. This is not true. Law enforcement can utilize all information. If the information can be verified as true, then compiling other information received on the same subject can result in an a search warrant and or arrest. Thus taking another meth lab or dealer out of our community, or helping a user to get the help they need.

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL METHAMPHETAMINE TASK FORCE 2008 REPORT

**GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY
GRAYS HARBOR DRUG TASK FORCE
GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY SHERIFF MICHAEL WHELAN**



SOUTHWEST REGIONAL TASK FORCE 2008 REPORT

During January of 2007, the Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Department was able to place one additional detective into their multi jurisdictional Drug Task Force. This position was created when the Washington State Legislature provided funding by implementing the Southwest Regional Methamphetamine Task Force Initiative. The Grays Harbor Drug Task Force consists of one supervisor, four narcotic detectives, and one support/clerical staff member. Detectives and Sergeant are assigned from the Aberdeen Police Department, Hoquiam Police Department, and the Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Department.

Since the enactment of the TF Initiative, task force administrators, supervisors, and detectives have met on a regular basis to discuss trends, intelligence gathering techniques, and common concerns within our region. These regular informational meetings have been a great benefit throughout our region and have assisted each task force with criminal investigations within their jurisdiction as well as coordinated investigations throughout our region.

These meetings have also helped to foster formal and informal lines of communications, thereby allowing task force members to network with all other task force members within the region and be provided intelligence related to important investigations. All the members of the Southwest Regional Task force now use the LINX system to share and view related criminal activity reports and current drug related incidents. Prior to the Regional Methamphetamine Initiative, communication lines between neighboring task forces were intermittent to non-existent.

The Grays Harbor Drug Task Force has had many successes since the implementation of the Regional Task Force. These successes are largely due to having additional manpower within the DTF as well as resources that task forces within our region were able to provide. Some of these successes are as follows:

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL TASK FORCE 2008 REPORT

During the early months of 2005, Grays Harbor Drug Task Force Detectives initiated an investigation into members of a Mexican drug trafficking organization (DTO) who were dealing large amounts of methamphetamine in the Grays Harbor, Thurston, and Pacific Counties. During that investigation, DTF Detectives were only able to identify and infiltrate very low levels of this family's organization. During late 2007, DTF Detectives cultivated several key informants who had direct ties to the leaders of this DTO. It was believed that the DTO made up of the Barragan Family alone was responsible for smuggling about 200 pounds of crystal methamphetamine into the United States each month from the family's hometown in Artega, Mexico.

The DEA Tacoma Division adopted the DTF case in late 2007 as an OCDETF and Title III investigation. The investigation was given the code name "Capital Cleansing". Participating agencies included four of the Southwest Regional Task Forces (Grays Harbor, Lewis, Cowlitz, and Pacific Counties) as well as the Thurston County Narcotics Task Force.

Throughout the course of the investigation, Task Force Detectives from every jurisdiction worked closely with each other on residential surveillance, vehicle follows, vehicle tracking using digital technology, and intelligence gathering. Several of the Task Forces, including the Grays Harbor DTF worked exclusively on this one case for the entire first quarter of the 2008 year.

During the first week of April 2008, more than 300 Federal Agents and local law enforcement officers executed approximately twenty search warrants at locations in four counties. As a result of those search warrants, twenty-two members of the so-called Barragan DTO were arrested. An additional nineteen other individuals associated with

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL TASK FORCE 2008 REPORT

the organization faced State drug and weapons charges. By the end of the day, United States Attorney Jeffrey Sullivan stated, "We are confident we have dismantled this organization in Washington and the Western United States, and I don't think it will be rebuilt any time soon".

Throughout the course of the Capital Cleansing investigation, there were a total of 41 arrests; 89 pounds of methamphetamine was seized; 50 firearms were confiscated; more than \$255,000 in cash was seized; 17 court-approved wiretaps were obtained; and 25 Federal and State warrants were executed. Thirty Federal, State, and local law enforcement and criminal justice agencies were involved, including members from all of the Southwest Regional Task Forces.

The success of the Capital Cleansing investigation is a prime example of what can be accomplished when resources are made available and cooperation is provided within a region. No one agency could have worked this case to completion. Every participating Task Force produced and cultivated leads and evidence needed to dismantle the Barragan DTO. All information was shared, and every Officer and Detective assigned to the case was directly responsible for the overall success of this investigation.

Since the completion of Capital Cleansing, crystal methamphetamine prices have almost doubled in the Grays Harbor area, and the once readily available drug is harder for users to obtain. We have also seen and have been told to by informants that whatever methamphetamine can be found locally is lower quality, probably because the dealers have to stretch their supplies by adding more non-methamphetamine cutting agents. These conditions have prevailed throughout 2008, indicating that the street level crystal methamphetamine dealers and users are still feeling the ripple effect of this one investigation.