



To report suspicious activity regarding methamphetamine production or trafficking, contact the Office of the Attorney General – Statewide Grand Jury Bureau at:  
**Phone: (312) 814-5200**  
**TTY: (312) 814-3374**



To obtain more information on methamphetamine abuse, call the Illinois State Police – Safety Education Division at:  
**Phone: (217) 524-2525**  
**TTY: (800) 255-3323**



You can have your anhydrous ammonia tanks inspected by contracting the Illinois Department of Agriculture at:  
**Phone: (217) 782-3817**  
**TTY: (217) 524-6858**

Printed by authority of the State of Illinois, 06/05, 35M, 0856. This material is available in an alternative format upon request.

## A Message from Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan



In the last few years, methamphetamine has spread throughout the midwest, becoming an emerging and significant drug problem. As a result, theft of anhydrous ammonia to make methamphetamine has increased dramatically. Unfortunately, our state’s farmers and fertilizer dealers are increasingly becoming victims of meth manufacturers who steal anhydrous ammonia to make the drug.

In Illinois, methamphetamine lab seizures increased from 24 in 1997 to 403 in 2000 to 1,099 in 2003, with rural counties experiencing the greatest seizure rate increase during this period – nearly six times greater than the rate for the entire state.\*

My office is committed to working with the Department of Agriculture, the Illinois State Police, farmers, and fertilizer dealers to combat this problem. I am pleased to provide you with the information in this brochure to help keep our communities, our families, and our farmland safe.

Lisa Madigan, Attorney General

*A 1999 study found that eighth-graders in rural America were more than twice as likely than those in urban centers to use methamphetamine.\**

\* "Methamphetamine in Illinois: An examination of an emerging drug," Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, Research Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 2, January 2003. Available at [www.icjia.state.il.us](http://www.icjia.state.il.us).

# Methamphetamine and Agriculture

**AN ALERT FOR ILLINOIS FARMERS**



[www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/methnet](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/methnet)

**LISA MADIGAN**  
 ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL

# Methamphetamine and Anhydrous Ammonia

A highly addictive nerve stimulant, methamphetamine is not unlike cocaine or even caffeine. Also known as meth, crank, speed, and ice, methamphetamine can be smoked, injected, snorted, or taken orally.

Increasingly, meth is being manufactured in small, clandestine laboratories using recipes involving chemicals derived from various consumer products including cold medicines, drain cleaners, and battery acid.

While there are several ways to manufacture methamphetamine, one of the most popular “recipes” features anhydrous ammonia as a key ingredient. This chemical is commonly used for agricultural purposes, making the Illinois farmer a prime target for anhydrous ammonia thefts.

The potential for methamphetamine abuse and dependence is high. Users become physically addicted to and psychologically dependent on the drug. A person under the influence of methamphetamine can be **very dangerous**. Meth can make the user paranoid, delusional, and aggressive. Therefore, you should never confront someone attempting to steal anhydrous ammonia. Instead, *call the police*.

## New Technology

Currently, a number of groups are conducting research on an additive that can be mixed with anhydrous ammonia to render it useless in the manufacture of meth. The research is not yet conclusive but there is hope that we may soon have a more effective solution to the problem of anhydrous ammonia theft and the manufacture of methamphetamine. In the meantime, everyone who works with anhydrous ammonia must take steps to keep it out of the hands of meth manufacturers.

## Penalties for Meth-Related Offenses

- Tampering or attempting to tamper with anhydrous ammonia equipment, containers, or storage facilities is, at a minimum, a Class 4 felony with a possible \$25,000 fine and a sentence of 1-3 years in prison.
- Manufacturing, producing, or distributing methamphetamine is, at a minimum, a Class 2 felony, with a possible \$200,000 fine and a sentence of 3-7 years in prison.
- Transferring anhydrous ammonia in a portable container not authorized by the Hazardous Materials Act is a Class 4 felony.

Legal owners of anhydrous ammonia equipment, containers, or storage facilities are not subject to civil liability for any injury sustained by a person who unlawfully tampers with such equipment, containers, or storage facilities.

## Anhydrous Ammonia Theft Prevention Tips For Farmers

- Have tanks delivered close to the time of application.
- Work with local law enforcement on the placement of delivered nurse tanks.
- Inspect the condition of each nurse tank upon delivery and return.
- Check tanks frequently for tampering.
- Report any signs of tampering to local law enforcement and to your fertilizer dealer. The dealer will inspect the tank to ensure that it has not been damaged and is safe to use.
- Return tanks immediately after use.

*Remember, the proper storage of anhydrous ammonia is important for your safety and will help prevent the manufacture of methamphetamine.*



Clip and Save: Important phone numbers on reverse side.