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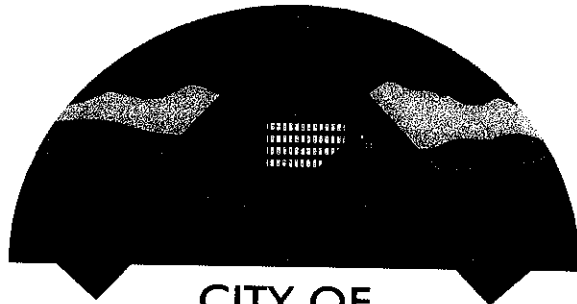
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CITY OF  
**NORTH LAS VEGAS**  
*Your Community of Choice*

**SB 204**

**Assembly Judiciary Committee**

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1 of 15

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ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY

DATE: 4/25/03 ROOM 3138 EXHIBIT C

SUBMITTED BY: Kimberly McAndrews

# FIRST AID

Your state has a Good Samaritan Law with regard to giving First Aid. Know your legal rights and responsibilities by knowing the law.

In every instance at a meth lab where there is even the slightest hint of injury, including the inhalation of fumes, dial 911 and seek Medical Assistance Immediately. Meth lab injuries may not be immediately obvious as they cause permanent damage to your health, or death.

Before initiating First Aid, be certain the action you are about to take will not cause additional injury to the victim. Be informed. Seek medical advice and training.

*In addition to the presence of phosphine and/or hydrogen chloride gas, the blending of chemicals may produce other life threatening gases. Just because you cannot detect a chemical odor does not mean that life threatening gases are not present. Everyone entering a meth lab should be properly certified and equipped with approved protective clothing and breathing equipment.*

Each chemical family attacks the human body in a different way. Symptoms of injury may include, but are not limited to: drowsiness, sweating, drooling, irritability, look of fear, headache, dizziness, nausea, rapid breathing/pulse, confusion, blurred vision, fatigue, cough, muscle twitches, pinpoint/dilated pupils, and sudden changes in behavior.

(If the chemical that caused the injury is known and the container is present, follow the manufactures First Aid instructions.)

#### FOR METH LAB INJURIES THE FOLLOWING ARE RECOMMENDATIONS ONLY:

Anhydrous Ammonia - move victim to safety and fresh air immediately. Flush the exposed area (eyes also if contaminated) immediately with clean water for a minimum of 15 minutes. Anhydrous ammonia freezes on contact at room temperature and can cause burns similar to, but more severe than, dry ice. Remove clothing AFTER you thaw it with fresh water, or extensive skin damage can result. Do not apply salves, creams or ointments. *Dial 911*

Sodium/Lithium Metal - a silvery metal. Do not flush with water. Sodium or Lithium Metal is water reactive and will ignite upon contact with water. Brush off any metal from the skin. *Dial 911*

- \* Move victim to a safe area with fresh air.
- \* Remove contaminated clothing. *(Note Anhydrous Ammonia)*
- \* Remove obstruction from mouth.
- \* If vomiting occurs, turn victim on side to avoid choking.
- \* Rinse the contaminated part of the body (including eyes) with fresh water for at least 15 minutes. *(Note Sodium/Lithium Metal)*
- \* If no pulse - perform CPR.
- \* If not breathing - perform artificial respiration *(mouth to mouth)*.
- \* Keep victim as comfortable as possible.

More First Aid and other information available at [www.streetdrugs.org](http://www.streetdrugs.org)

Reprints Available

Publishers Group

[www.streetdrugs.org](http://www.streetdrugs.org)

(763) 473-0646

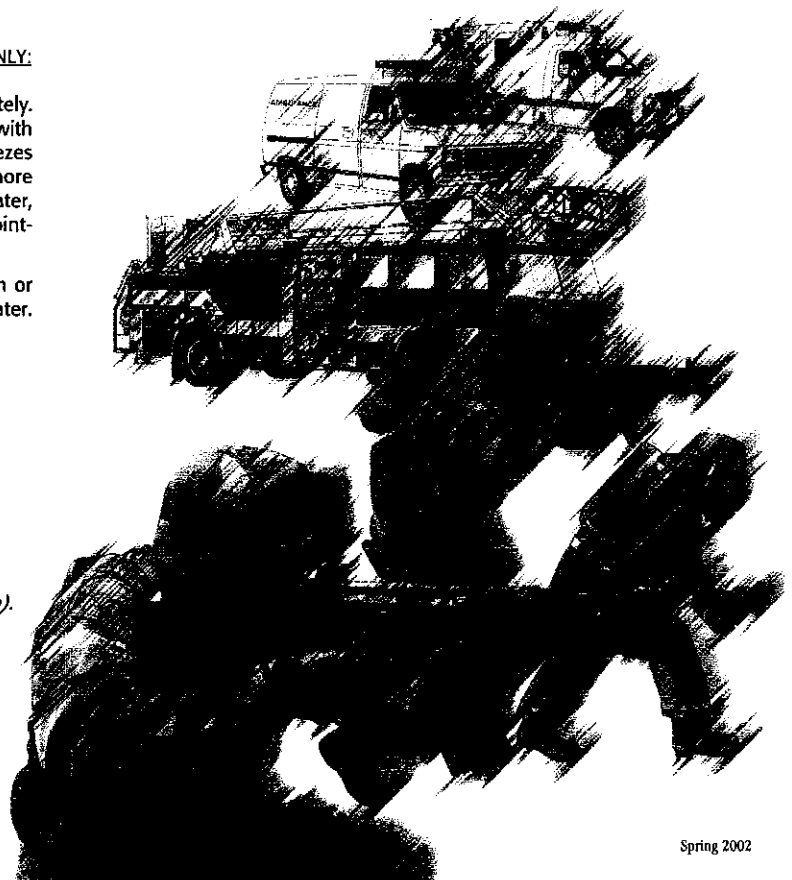
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Ver. 060301

# METH LABS

## Emergency Responder

Resource Guide



Spring 2002

C2 & 15

# METHAMPHETAMINE LABORATORIES



## FIRST ON SCENE

A clandestine drug laboratory becomes an emergency response at the time of discovery. The firefighter, emergency medical personnel, law enforcement officer or other who discovers a clandestine drug laboratory is considered the FIRST ON-SCENE. The actions taken by this person should be for the purpose of protecting himself/herself and other private citizens or bystanders who may be in danger.

The FIRST ON-SCENE may be exposed to significant hazards. Critical safety actions must be taken immediately.

The following are recommended:

1. Anyone with injury symptoms indicated under First Aid, call for Medical Assistance immediately. *Dial 911*
2. Minimize exposure. (Avoid further contact with the lab site.)
3. Do not try to shut down the lab.
4. Evacuate everyone from vicinity of lab site (upwind).
5. Warn others to stay clear.
6. Secure the area.
7. Call for assistance (i.e. Ambulance, Local Police, Sheriff, Fire Department, State Hazardous Materials Response Team, Drug Enforcement Administration.)
8. Render first aid per your training.
9. Clear debris which may impede response from 6 above.
10. Avoid areas of odor, discoloration and visible danger.
11. Do not allow smoking around or near the lab site.
12. Do not touch or smell any lab equipment or chemicals.
13. Observe from a distance.

## FIRST TO RESPOND

Coordinate with other federal, state, county, and city agencies.  
Which agency will take the lead?

### ASSESSMENT?

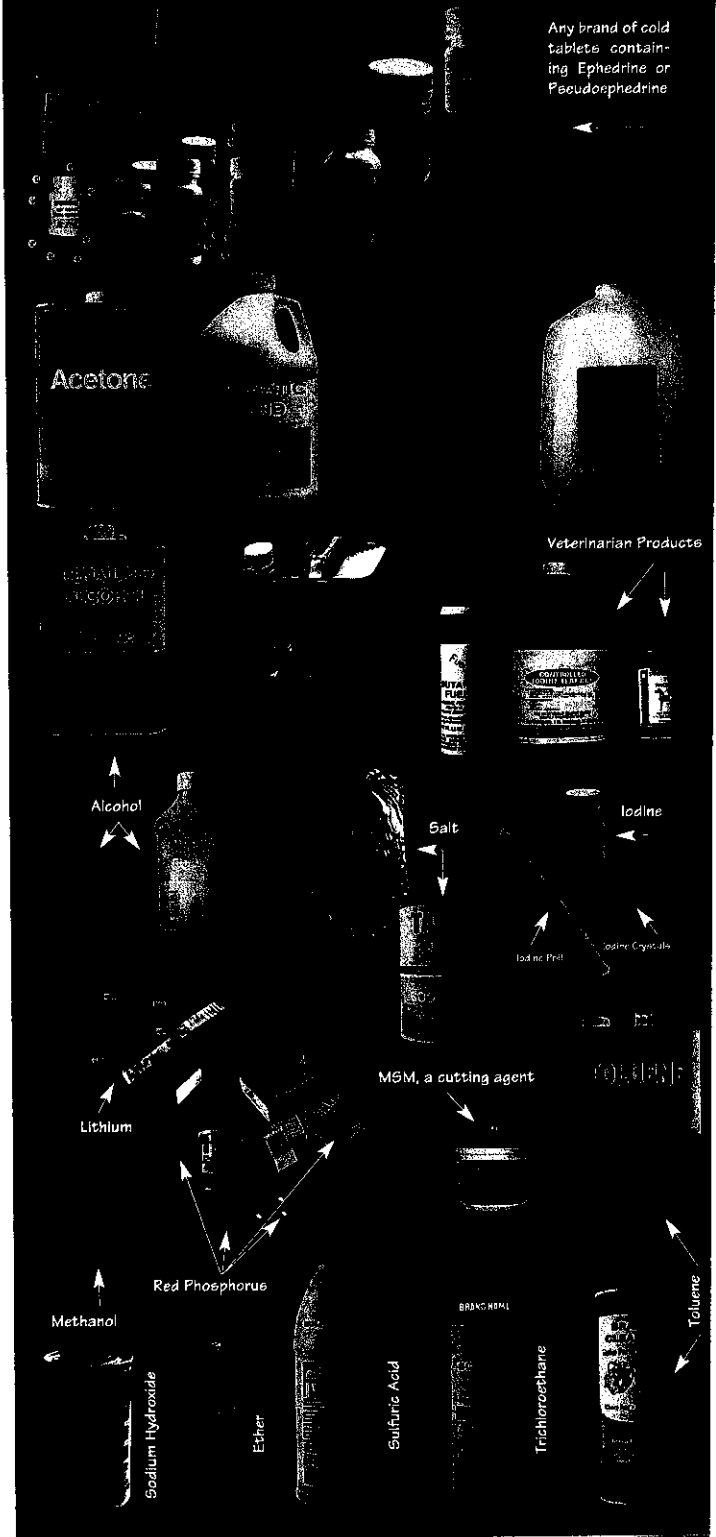
#### GO TO YOUR AGENCY CHECKLIST

1. What actions have been taken so far? ( FIRST ON SCENE complete?)
2. Are appropriate personnel on site?  
(Police, DEA, Fire Department, Hazardous Materials Team, EPA, etc.)
3. Is everyone near lab site wearing appropriate safety equipment.
4. Materials/chemicals involved? (type, quantity, solid, liquid, etc)
5. What has been contaminated?
6. What is the potential for fires? Explosions? Reactions?
7. Is the contamination stationary or moving? Site Control?
8. Where is the threat now? Medical Care? Rescue? Evacuation?
9. What are the environmental conditions? Threats?
10. Have arrests been made? Evidence Collection? Clean Up?  
(Hazard Waste Disposal Notification)

# CHEMICALS AND EQUIPMENT FREQUENTLY

## CHEMICALS

- Ephedrine** (Cold Tablets)
- ⊕
- Pseudoephedrine** (Cold Tablets)
- ⊕
- Acetone**
- ⊕
- Alcohol** (Isopropyl or Rubbing)
- ⊕
- Toluene** (Brake Cleaner)
- ⊕
- Ether** (Engine Starter)
- ⊕
- Sulfuric Acid** (Drain Cleaner)
- ⊕
- Methanol/Alcohol** (Gasoline Additives)
- ⊕
- Salt** (Table/Rock)
- ⊕
- Lithium** (Batteries)
- ⊕
- Anhydrous Ammonia** (Farm Fertilizer)
- ⊕
- Sodium Hydroxide** (Lye)
- ⊕
- Red Phosphorus** (Matches/Road Flares)
- ⊕
- Muriatic Acid**
- ⊕
- Iodine** (Teat Dip or Flakes/Crystal)
- ⊕
- Trichloroethane** (Gun Scrubber)
- ⊕
- Sodium Metal**
- ⊕
- MSM** (Cutting Agent)



# FOUND AT METHAMPHETAMINE LAB SITES

## EQUIPMENT

Pyrex or Corning Dishes



Jugs



Bottles



Funnels



Coffee Filters



Thermometer



Cheesecloth



Blender



Rubber Tubing/Gloves



Paper Towels



Gas Can



Tape/Clamps



Hotplate



Strainer



Aluminum Foil



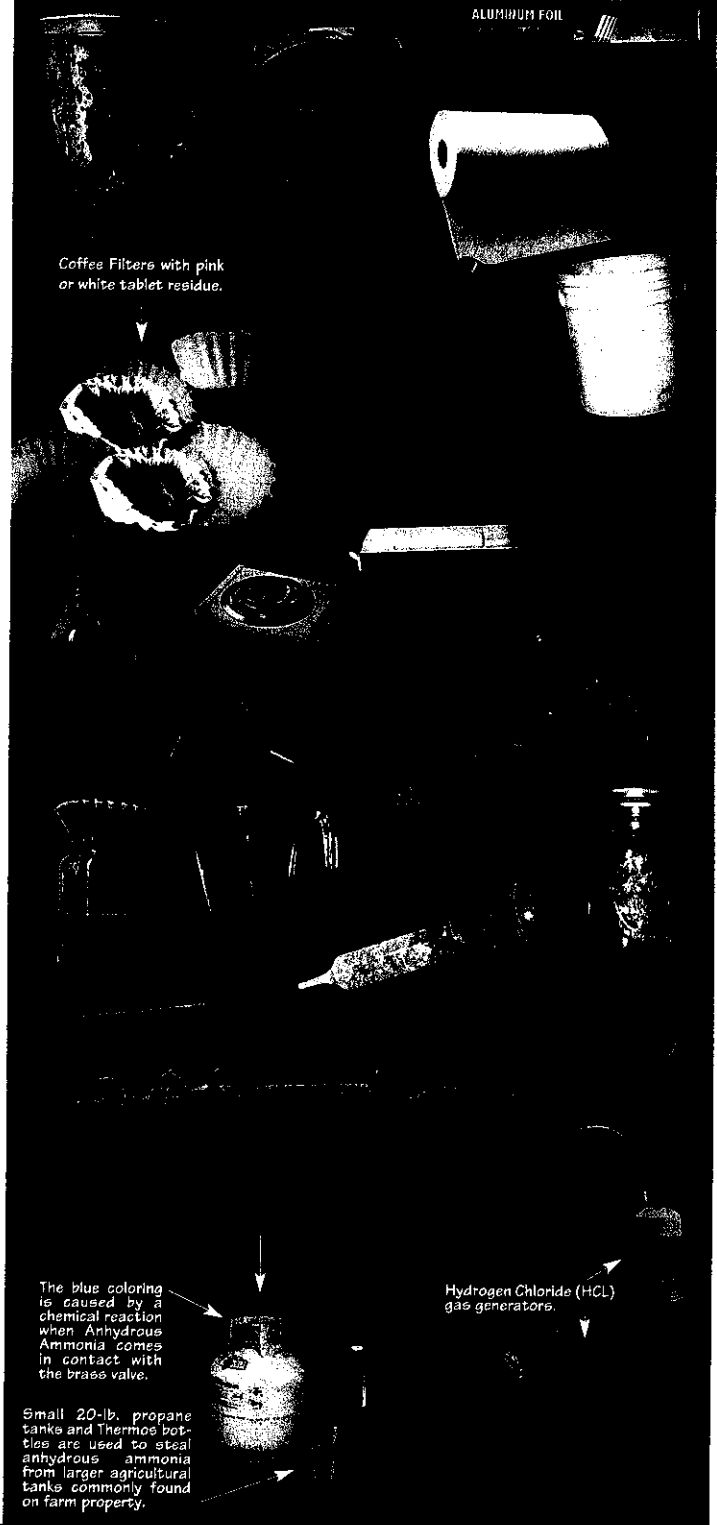
Propane Cylinder (20-lb)



Books "How To Make Methamphetamine"



Internet Documents/Notes





**Submitted Written Testimony in  
Support of SB 204 (City of North Las Vegas)**

**by**

**Councilwoman Stephanie S. Smith  
as part of the North Las Vegas City Council  
Assembly Judiciary Committee Bill Hearing - April 25, 2003**

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

About a year ago, I received a phone call from a constituent. Ms. Judy Cruden had purchased a home in North Las Vegas. She noticed that her daughter had received a skin burn, and through the course of her investigation, she learned that the home that she had just purchased had previously been used as a methamphetamine lab. Not only was she distraught over the peril in which she and her family had been placed, she was outraged that no one had told her. I agreed with her. She asked for a North Las Vegas ordinance to have such uses disclosed. As a former Nevada Assemblywoman and member of the Judiciary Committee, I knew that this issue was bigger than North Las Vegas and would need to be addressed by you.

I don't believe there is any disagreement regarding the risk to public health regarding methamphetamine labs. Sites that have been identified as such have been found to have contaminants and hazardous materials which may pose the following health threats: respiratory or breathing problems, skin and eye irritations, nausea, dizziness, vomiting, lung damage, skin burns and even birth defects. Moreover, if you or I were to sell this house, he or she would be required to disclose this information. If a realtor were to sell this house, he or she would be required to disclose this information. In fact, if anyone were to sell this home, he or she would be required to disclose this information **except for financial institutions**. This is clearly a loophole in the law. If there is no risk and consumers need not be informed, then no one should disclose. However, I would submit this is not the case. The use of homes, apartments and mobile homes as meth labs is on the rise throughout Clark County and the State. It is an escalating risk that requires extensive, costly mitigation and most importantly, disclosure.

The City of North Las Vegas is respectfully bringing this issue before you for consideration. SB 204 will eliminate the exemption of banks, mortgage companies, thrift companies, credit unions, trust companies, savings and loan associations, or farm loan associations from not disclosing to a purchaser that a real residential property was a previous methamphetamine lab. We strongly encourage the passage of SB 204 because it will close this loophole and is in the best interest of all our constituents. For the health and safety of our families, the public has a right to know which homes have been identified as meth labs. I urge your passage of SB 204 and I thank you for your time.



**Submitted Written Testimony in  
Support of SB 204 (City of North Las Vegas)**

**by**

**Kimberly McDonald, Lead Staff Lobbyist  
City of North Las Vegas**

**Assembly Judiciary Committee Bill Hearing - April 25, 2003**

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee:

I am Kimberly McDonald, representing the City of North Las Vegas. For the committee's perusal and use during today's hearing, we have provided SB 204 packets which include the bill, written testimony and various supplemental information. Please also note that included in the packet is written testimony from Councilwoman Stephanie Smith, as part of the North Las Vegas City Council. This issue was brought to her attention; however, she was unable to be here due to work obligations.

Mr. Chairman, in addition to myself, we have two other presenters. To my left, is Ms. Judy Cruden, a constituent who brought this public health issue of disclosure of property as previous meth labs to our City's attention, and you will hear her story. In fact, Ms. Cruden felt so passionate about this issue that she paid her own airfare to fly here and testify today. To my right, is Lt. Chris Larotonda of the North Las Vegas Police Department Narcotics Division. Lt. Larotonda will be testifying about methamphetamine chemicals, their effects, meth labs, and the police department's process and role in the meth lab issue. We also have our City Attorney, Mr. Sean McGowan, who is also on hand in Las Vegas to address any technical legal questions.

We are pleased to present SB 204 which revises the provisions governing disclosure of certain information to purchasers and lessees of real property. In summary, SB 204 removes the exemption of financial institutions and landlords from disclosing whether a real property was formerly a methamphetamine lab, *if* they have actual knowledge. This bill merely removes their exemption if they have this knowledge, and provides that they must disclose this knowledge to the purchaser or lessee just as realtors and sellers must do. Now, I would like to review the bill. For your information, this First Reprint of the bill, reflects the

amendments recommended by the Senate Judiciary Committee to strengthen the bill by including rental property and landlords, as well as the provision that a home could be deemed safe and habitable by either a certified or licensed entity or governmental agency, this removing a property's stigma upon remediation and decontamination. With that, I will proceed.

Section 1, subsection 1 on page 1, with the exception of subsection 5, proposes to clarify what is considered material and immaterial to the sale, lease or rental transaction of real property. Facts such as if the real property is or has been the site of a homicide, suicide or death, a felonious crime, or occupied by a person exposed to or suffering from acquired immune deficiency, are facts that **are not material** to the transaction. We have also added language that further specifies that a crime, other than the manufacture of methamphetamine on the real property, **is not material** to the transaction.

Section 1, subsection 2, lines 9-14 on page 2, continues with existing sex offender language that is not material to the transaction; however, language is added to include the lease or rental of real property, as well as a lessee (tenant) and landlord.

Section 1, Subsections 3 and 4, lines 15-27 on page 2, adds language that a lessor, landlord, agent or seller is not liable to disclose to the buyer or lessee any fact that is not material to the sale or rental transaction "or of which they had no actual knowledge."

Section 1, Subsection 5, lines 28-36 on page 2, reasserts through added language that if the property has been the site of a crime involving the manufacture of methamphetamine, *it is not material* to the transaction *only if* all methamphetamine materials and substances have been removed or remediated on the property by a certified or licensed entity or deemed safe to live in by a governmental entity.

Section 2, Subsection 2, lines 16-30 on page 3, are proposed deleted language indicating the specific entities or instances that **are not** exempt from disclosing knowledge of real property as a previous meth lab; such as, government or governmental agencies, court orders or foreclosures, and various financial institutions. This deletion removes their exemption.

This concludes the technical review of the bill. Now, Mr. Chairman, I'd like for Ms. Judy Cruden to relay her story followed by Lt. Chris Larotonda.

*[Judy Cruden - Constituent Testimony]*

*[Lt. Chris Larotonda, North Las Vegas Police Department Narcotics Division Testimony]*

Mr. Chairman, to further illustrate the pervasiveness of meth labs, with your approval, we would like to play a brief tape of meth lab story featured February 24, 2003 on the television show, "Inside Edition." You will see a story about a family living in Denver whose child has a mysterious illness that turns out to be caused by their home of which they did not know was a former meth lab. Please begin the tape.

*[Tape]*

In closing, the City of North Las Vegas is pleased to respectfully bring this issue before you, the Assembly Judiciary Committee, and we thank you for your consideration. We strongly encourage the passage of SB 204 as it removes the exemption of financial institutions (i.e., banks, mortgage companies, thrift companies, credit unions, trust companies, savings and loan associations, or farm loan associations) and landlords from not disclosing to a purchaser that a real property was a previous meth lab, *if* they possess such knowledge. This disclosure must be made by all, *if* we have such actual knowledge.

Help us close this loophole and combat this critical public health issue with SB 204. The number of methamphetamine labs continues to increase; thus, the number of unknowing purchasers....hard working people in the community... are unaware that the home that they may be living in or renting could have been a meth lab. For the health and safety of our families, the public has a right to know which homes have been identified as previous meth labs. We urge your passage of SB 204, and we are happy to provide answers to any questions the committee may have. Thank you for hearing our presentation.

**Submitted Written Testimony in  
Support of SB 204 (City of North Las Vegas)**

**by**

**Judy Cruden - Constituent**

**Assembly Judiciary Committee Bill Hearing – Friday, April 25, 2003**

Good Morning, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee:

I am Judy Cruden. I first became aware of the health hazards of homes that were former meth labs in March of 2002. In years past, the process of making methamphetamine gave off a strong odor, therefore making the typical place for labs in the rural areas. However, today the process has been refined so as not to give off the odors it once did, and these labs are popping up in all neighborhoods, not just drug infested neighborhoods and outlying areas.

I purchased a rental property located in North Las Vegas. When I first looked at the house, a bank repo, I knew that we would have to paint and get new carpet. I chalked it up to filthy living, and what I thought were cigarette burns in the carpet. The night we had closed, I took my husband and three young children to the house to show them our newest rental property. My daughter, 18 months at the time, had fallen inside the house and crawled on the floor for just a few moments before I scooped her up. What I didn't know at the time and wasn't told was that this house had been a methamphetamine lab. The only reason I found out was because a neighbor came over the next day and told my painter that the house had been a meth lab. I began making phone calls and found out that the house had been a lab and that an Environmental Technology team, through the North Las Vegas Police Department Narcotics Division, had collected obvious waste products, but no clean up was done. The problem here is that the removal of chemicals is not the same as the cleanup of the hazardous materials that are left behind. No one regulates the cleanup of residential meth labs. A few days later, I noticed

what looked like a burn mark on my daughter's finger. I immediately took her to the doctor and he confirmed that it looked like a chemical burn. That little exposure with the carpet gave her a chemical burn on her finger. What angered me the most about this situation was that if I had purchased this home as my personal residence, I would have moved in the very same day of closing and exposed my children to the home's toxic and hazardous materials. My neighbor went out of their way to warn us. There is no law in place to prevent a seller from not disclosing that the house was a previous meth lab and that my children would have been exposed to potentially life threatening health hazards. After much research, I now know more than I ever wanted to know about this silent killer.

The costs to rehab a former meth lab are staggering. For this 1,400 sq. ft. home it was estimated the decontamination costs would be approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000. These costs needed to be incurred before we could allow anyone to move into the house. The damage was extensive and would require the complete removal of the contaminated carpet and pad and installation of new ones. Other items for repairs are as follows: cleaning of the heating and air conditioning system, the plumbing in the master bathroom would have to be replaced along with grout, and the cabinets. The stove and microwave in the kitchen would have to be replaced along with the light fixtures and any porous surfaces in the house. The walls and ceiling inside of the house, assuming no explosion had taken place, would have to be sealed and then repainted. If an explosion had occurred, the costs would be even more horrendous as decontamination may not be an option.

I contacted the seller's agent and the bank to attempt to get them to take back the property, but to no avail. I contacted an attorney to ask on my behalf, and they still refused. Only after I went to the local media, KVBC Channel 3 (Las Vegas), and my story was aired, then the bank contacted my attorney and agreed to reimburse me for all of my costs. Although this

story ended well, most do not.

I stand before you today asking you to help do what is right. Health hazards should be disclosed, in the same fashion as lead-based paint, to any potential home buyer by *all* sellers including sellers of repossessed properties if they knew or should have known about the lab. I would like to thank the North Las Vegas City Council for taking my call and listening to my concerns about this loophole in the law that allows for this potential health hazard to go unnoticed. I would like to thank you, the members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, for considering passage of SB 204 and listening to my plea for help for the public on this issue. *Anyone of us, at this moment, could be renting or living in a home or apartment that was a meth lab and not know it.* Thank you.

**Submitted Written Testimony in  
Support of SB 204 (City of North Las Vegas)**

**by**

**Lt. Chris Larotonda - North Las Vegas Police Department  
City of North Las Vegas**

**Assembly Judiciary Committee Bill Hearing – Friday, April 25, 2003**

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee:

I am Lt. Chris Larotonda representing the North Las Vegas Police Department. I am pleased to have this opportunity to address you today as we discuss the problem that methamphetamine trafficking poses to the citizens of our state and our country. Methamphetamine is one of the most significant law enforcement and social issues facing the nation today.

Methamphetamine is one of the only widely- abused controlled substances which an addict, without chemical experience, can make on his own. A cocaine or heroin addict cannot make his own cocaine or heroin. But, a methamphetamine addict has only to turn on his computer to find a recipe for the chemicals and process to make this drug. Unlike drugs produced in some clandestine laboratories, methamphetamine is a very simple drug to produce. The user or "cook" can go to a retail store and purchase a vast majority of chemicals needed for the manufacturing process. Such items as battery acid, red phosphorus, muratic acid, and iodine crystals can be utilized to substitute for necessary chemicals. Clandestine laboratory operations can use relatively common items, such as mason jars, coffee filters, hot plates, pressures cookers, pillow cases, and plastic tubing to substitute for sophisticated laboratory equipment.

The Drug Enforcement Agency is now reporting that 98% of clandestine laboratories seized in the United States are meth laboratories. In North Las Vegas alone, my Narcotics Division has responded to 65 clandestine laboratories since 1997. As the Narcotics Enforcement Team, we do our best to make a meth lab site safe and to neutralize the chemical dangers involved in a clandestine laboratory. This includes calling for a professional clean-up crew for hazardous waste. However, we cannot guarantee that all hazardous waste is removed.

The problem does not stop there.... it continues due to the dangerous chemical reactions that occur during the manufacturing process. Toxic chemical vapors can penetrate into walls, carpet, plaster, furniture and wood of the houses or buildings in which they are located. It is for this reason we feel, as law enforcement professionals, that it is imperative that legislation be passed that will protect the citizens of Nevada against a health enemy they cannot see. SB 204 is one way to help us achieve this.

In closing, I would like to read you a relevant comment made by the Drug Enforcement Agency in a Drug Intelligence report to the Multi-Jurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force:

"Perhaps the greatest risk of long-term exposure is assumed by unsuspecting inhabitants of buildings formerly used by clandestine drug laboratory operators where residual contamination may exist inside and outside the structure."

I thank the committee and urge its passage of SB 204.