What To Look For: Signs of a One-Pot Lab

- Batteries (Contain Lithium)
- Cold Medicines (Sudafed)
- Starting Fluid or Camp Fuel
- Cold Packs (Ammonium Nitrate)
- Household Drain Opener (Lye)
- Soda Bottles (White Crystals)
- Tubing
- Acids
- Salt
- Grinders
- Coffee Filters

Where?

One-Pot laboratories have been encountered in:

- Department store restrooms
- Vehicles during traffic stops
- School property
- Alleys, behind buildings
- Homes and garages

When a One-Pot lab is located, it is important to understand the dangers it might pose and determine whether it is operational. The combination of ingredients in the bottle have the potential to build up and cause extreme pressure, resulting in the potential for explosion and the release of harmful toxins. The public should note that nitrate is not only a meth lab indicator, but an explosive indicator as well. Common ingredients are used with the ammonium nitrate to create an improvised explosive device.

IF A LAB IS ENCOUNTERED:

- **DO NOT** touch anything
- **DO NOT** turn on/off any electrical power or light switches
- **DO NOT** eat or drink in or around a lab
- **DO NOT** smoke anywhere near a lab
- **DO NOT** move or open containers
- **DO NOT** sniff any containers
- **DO** remain upwind or uphill from the lab
- **DO** decontaminate if necessary
- **DO** call 911
One-Pot methamphetamine laboratories, also called “Shake and Bake” laboratories, are increasing in popularity. These portable labs create smaller batches of methamphetamine in a shorter amount of time than traditional methods. The process involves the combination of several common household ingredients in one container. The chemical reaction produces a crystalline powder that users smoke, snort, or inject. One-Pot labs are extremely dangerous. The concentration of these products builds up the pressure within the sealed container to levels beyond which the containers were made to withstand. If the bottle is shaken the wrong way, if any oxygen gets inside of it, or if the cap is loosened too quickly, the bottle can explode into a giant fireball.

The ease of transport and concealment of One-Pot labs creates a significant concern for officer and public safety. Substances and containers used to create a One-Pot lab can be easily overlooked. Awareness of the precursor chemicals and containers are key to identifying an active or an abandoned lab.

When the five main ingredients (Organic Solvent, Lye, Ammonium Nitrate, Pseudoephedrine, Lithium Metal) are mixed together, explosions can occur. This is called an Active One-Pot.

Contact should be made with the local law enforcement agency when an active lab or the remnants of a lab are discovered.

CALL 911 IF YOU ENCOUNTER A ONE-POT LAB OR THE REMNANTS OF A LAB.