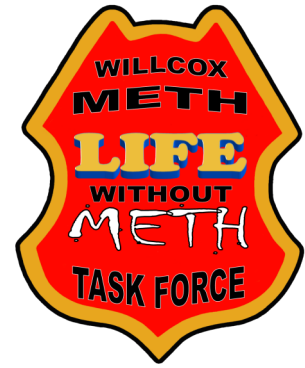


# The Dispatch

## The Willcox Meth Task Force Newsletter



## Meth Labs Effect All

The Willcox Meth Task Force (WMTF) was founded on July 13, 2005 as a result of the devastating effects of meth to the entire community. The WMTF is a sub-committee of Willcox Against Substance Abuse (WASA).

In 2006, the Willcox Department of Public Safety seized the largest meth lab known in Arizona's history. Quickly it was recognized the entire community was being effected by the use of meth and its production.

Meth is a devastating drug effecting all facets of the community. Meth is dangerous to produce and is leading cause of increased crime. It is addictive from its first use thus

decreases our productive work force. It is a leading cause of child abuse.



*Products of the largest meth lab in Arizona history. Found in Willcox, 2006.*

Meth labs are very toxic to the environment. When meth is being produced, gases are expelled into the environment. These gases can smell like cat urine or nail polish remover.

Meth labs are very unsafe and explode frequently. As a result, burn centers

nationwide are inundated with victims of meth lab explosions. These gases, and concern for lab explosion, also places first responders, i.e.—police, fire fighters, and paramedics, at risk for personal harm.

When a meth lab is found, it is required to be professional cleaned. The gases are so potent that they penetrate into almost anything, including dry wall and carpet. Everything must be professionally removed and is costly.

If a renter or new owner, inhabits a home with a previous meth lab, they too can have symptoms of meth toxicity. Children who are exposed to these gases can also demonstrate meth-like illnesses.

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### Meth Labs:

- Place the entire community at risk
- Can be indentified by a chemical smell of "cat urine" or "nail polish remover"
- Must be cleaned by professionals with an average cost of \$5,000 per lab
- Can cause meth-like illness by the mere exposure to its gases
- Are a DEC concern

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## Signs of a Meth Lab

Meth labs are a community hazard. The labs place individuals at risk of physical harm from the noxious gases or from possible explosion. If you suspect a meth lab, immediately go to a safe place and contact **911**.

### Signs of a meth lab:

Strong smell of ammonia (cat urine) or acetone (nail polish remover).

Frequent visitors especially at night

Extensive security about the home

Extensive window covers  
Occupants seem paranoid  
Occupants smoke outside  
Garbage contains numerous chemical bottles  
Garbage is moved to another area for pick-up

Visit us at [www.willcoxmethtaskforce.org](http://www.willcoxmethtaskforce.org)

## Children are Effected by Meth Labs

Children are unfortunately severely effected by meth and meth labs. Children can show signs of meth toxicity merely by their exposure when in close proximity to those using or producing meth.

Meth use by parents inherently makes them neglectful of their child's needs. Children, of any age, will frequently be forced to care for themselves.

When children live within an area of meth use or production, they are constantly being exposed to the drug. They can show signs of meth toxicity and may even show a positive drug screen for methamphetamine.



**WMTF Billboard, courtesy of Clear Channel, demonstrating all that is lost by meth. Billboard can be found on I-10, west of Willcox.**

Meth use has caused a high demand on our nation's Foster Care system. Our local CPS reports 90% of children removed from homes is related to paren-

tal meth use.

### Symptoms of a child exposed to meth:

Fast Heart Beat

Violent Aggressive Behavior

Weight Loss

Frequent illness and sores of skin

Poor dentition

Smells of ammonia or acetone

Appears neglected

**Call 911 or CPS at 888-SOS-CHILD if you suspect child abuse**

## Drug-Endangered Children



Innocent children are too often the victims found living within dangerous, toxic and hazardous environments as a result of meth. Abuse of drugs by parents and caretakers can have a negative impact on the health, safety, and well-being of children.

The Arizona Alliance for Drug-Endangered Children is coordinated and staffed by the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families. The Mission of the Alliance is to provide a

seamless, coordinated community response to children endangered by drugs.

The Alliance aims to :

Ensure the immediate safety and security of children exposed to drugs and alcohol

Address their medical, treatment, counseling, education and placement needs

Enhance criminal charges against of-

fending adults, parents or caregivers

Place children in stable and secure homes

Break the cycle of drug and alcohol use and abuse

Increase community awareness and decrease the tolerance of dangers associated with drug use, sales and manufacturing

**To learn more, Call: 602-542-6004 or visit: [www.gocyf.az.gov/SAP](http://www.gocyf.az.gov/SAP)**

## Comfort for Kids



Over 80 percent of children found within drug environments are placed into temporary custody at the scene. Many times children removed from these homes have been neglected and abused. The children are often hungry and without clean clothes to wear. Due to fear of contamination, or other health concerns, the child can not bring anything with them—no clothes, toys, or favorite blankets.

The Alliance for DEC has an RV which is dispatched to the scene (anywhere in the state). The RV is used as a safe place in which to conduct forensic interviews, decontamination, testing for illicit substance exposure, and to provide the child with food, clean clothing, and rest while CPS finds a safe home.

Supplies for the DEC RV are being sought through the "Comfort for Kids"

project. Donations are kept in the RV so that, when dispatched, workers are ready to assist these vulnerable youth. Examples of donations include diaper bags, toothbrushes, formula and bottles, teddy bears, or blankets.

**To make a donation, contact:**

**Richard Rosky, Chair of the Alliance for DEC at 602-703-6612 or email: [southwest\\_meth@yahoo.com](mailto:southwest_meth@yahoo.com)**

## Willcox Drug Abuse and Awareness Summit April 15, 2011

Sponsored by the Rural Law Enforcement Meth Initiative, the Willcox Meth Task Force is hosting the “Willcox Drug Abuse and Awareness Summit.” The program is open to all but focus is for first responders, health care professionals, law enforcement, CPS agents, and educators. The conference will be held from **9 AM—4 PM at the Council Chambers located at 300 W. Rex Allen Drive in Willcox, AZ.**



Topics will include, but not limited to, Pharmaceutical Abuse and Diversion Trends, Drug Endangered Children, AZ Juvenile Corrections Enhanced Law Enforcement Project, and Meth Production and Trafficking Update.

**Registration is free and a “Certificate of Attendance” will be provided.**

**To register, or for further information, you may contact:**

**Shanan Aven at 623-556-3432 or [saven@sai-dc.com](mailto:saven@sai-dc.com)**

**Dr. Walker at 520-766-5000 X 2 or [drwalker@willcoxmethtaskforce.org](mailto:drwalker@willcoxmethtaskforce.org)**

## Radio Ad Contest “Meth—Not Even Once!” May 10, 2011

The Willcox Meth Task Force, in collaboration with XWave 104.9, is proud to sponsor this year’s community radio advertisement contest.

The WMTF is seeking entries from all school aged children, 18 years or less. The winner will have the privilege to record their winning ad which will also be aired on Willcox’s local radio station!

The entry must contain the phrase:

*For Contest details and an Audio Recording Release form, please visit:*  
[www.xwave1049.com](http://www.xwave1049.com)  
[www.willcoxmethtaskforce.org](http://www.willcoxmethtaskforce.org)



**“Meth—Not Even Once!”** The ad should be fifty (50) words or less and must be accompanied by an Audio Recording Release.

The entries must be received by May 10th and the winner will be determined at the WMTF meeting to be held May 12th.

For further contest rules, and drop-off sites, please visit our websites (addresses found in center column).

## Contact Us:

If you have more questions, or would like to request a presentation, please contact a WMTF member. Contacts are found through our website.

For more information about meth, you may also visit our website at:

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

The WMTF meets quarterly at the local Willcox Police Department.

If you suspect drug activity, or a meth lab, contact your local law enforcement agency, or call:

- 911
- In Willcox: 384-4673
- Willcox Silent Witness: 384-8673
- In Arizona: 877-STP-METH

