

One-Pot Methamphetamine Cooks Pose New Danger



A new method of manufacturing methamphetamine, designed to get around laws restricting the sale of the ingredients needed to make meth, is spreading across the country. Law enforcement officials claim the new "shake and bake" process is even more dangerous than the old makeshift meth labs.

Methamphetamine cooks, using the "one-pot" method, combine the anhydrous ammonia (or fertilizer from which it is extracted), the pseudoephedrine tablets, water, and the reactive metal (ie. Lithium) into one container at the beginning of the process.

After the chemical reaction, what's left is a crystalline powder that users smoke, snort or inject. They often discard the bottle, which now contains a poisonous brown and white sludge.

The idea is to reduce the amount of time needed for the overall process. The danger to subjects and to law enforcement is due to the mixing of all of the ingredients in the one container.



The concentration of products builds up the ether pressure within the sealed container to levels beyond which the containers were not built to withstand. The building pressure can create a rupture or bursting of the container exposing the ingredients within to the air. Beyond the damage from the bursting container, exposure of items such as lithium to the air then creates further explosive danger.



The growing use of the one-pot method increases the danger to law enforcement and civilians from explosions, fires, and exposure to dangerous chemicals.

The shake and bake method is extremely dangerous. 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.

Authorities suggest that individuals, who find discarded bottles containing an unknown mixture, leave them alone. Do not open them or pick them up. Contact the WVDEP Hazardous Emergency Response Hotline at 1-800-642-3074.