

## Frequently Asked Questions on Process and Documentation

### **1.) I have had my quarantined property cleaned by an approved contractor, what do I do now?**

The property must be inspected by a certified industrial hygienist (CIH) or Clandestine methamphetamine lab hygienist (CML-H) to get a Certificate of Fitness. When the inspection and sampling are complete, the hygienist compiles a documentation package. The package contains pictures from the cleanup, disposal receipts, explanations of what work was done (these items should be provided by the cleanup contractor). The hygienist takes pictures of sample areas and provides sampling results. When the sampling is confirmed clean, the hygienist adds a Certificate of Fitness. This Certificate of Fitness is sent to the quarantining law enforcement agency in order to get a Release from Quarantine. The law enforcement agency may ask for a copy of the entire documentation package and ask TDEC to review it. Normally, this is only under odd or suspicious circumstances.

### **2.) What do I need to send to TDEC to get my property off of the list of methamphetamine contaminated sites?**

TDEC needs a copy of the Certificate of Fitness and the Release from Quarantine.

### **3.) I still have problems with my title after getting the quarantine removed. How do I resolve this?**

It is the responsibility of the property owner to file the Certificate of Fitness and Release from Quarantine with the Register of Deeds office. First, make sure this has been done. Normally the problem is that the paperwork is not filed or not filed properly. Be sure to keep receipts from the Register of Deeds office for paperwork filed. These receipts may help you track missing paperwork or fees.

### **4.) I have cleaned up my quarantined property by myself [contrary to the instructions of law enforcement and TDEC]. Now, how do I get the quarantine removed?**

First, you have done a very dangerous thing. Methamphetamine labs contain many chemical, physical, and biological hazards. Some chemicals are incompatible with normal cleaning solutions. This is frequently only discovered when an unfavorable reaction has started to occur. Without proper training and protective equipment, these labs are quite dangerous.

As for the quarantine, it can only be lifted with a Certificate of Fitness from an approved hygienist. (See the contractors list for CML Hygienists and Certified Industrial Hygienists.)

The hygienist will have to retrace your steps in cleaning, retrace your steps in where and how materials were disposed, and inspect everything you did. If you made poor decisions or cleanup was incomplete, a certified cleanup contractor will have to be called to clean again or otherwise fix the problems.

Poor decisions made by amateurs frequently cost more to fix than getting a professional to do the job correctly in the first place. You have risked your life and health and you will likely pay as much or more to get the quarantine released.

Also, when cleaning a property, law enforcement officials may cite you for breaking the methamphetamine quarantine - especially if they find you there while cleaning. Fines can be substantial. The methamphetamine cleanup statutes give implicit authority only to approved contractors to work at a quarantined property.

**5.)What documentation will law enforcement officials need to release the quarantine on my property?**

Law enforcement officials will need at least a Certificate of Fitness from an approved hygienist that the property is now safe for reuse. They have the prerogative to ask for a full documentation package from the cleanup. TDEC provides technical assistance to law enforcement in reviewing cleanups with unusual circumstances.