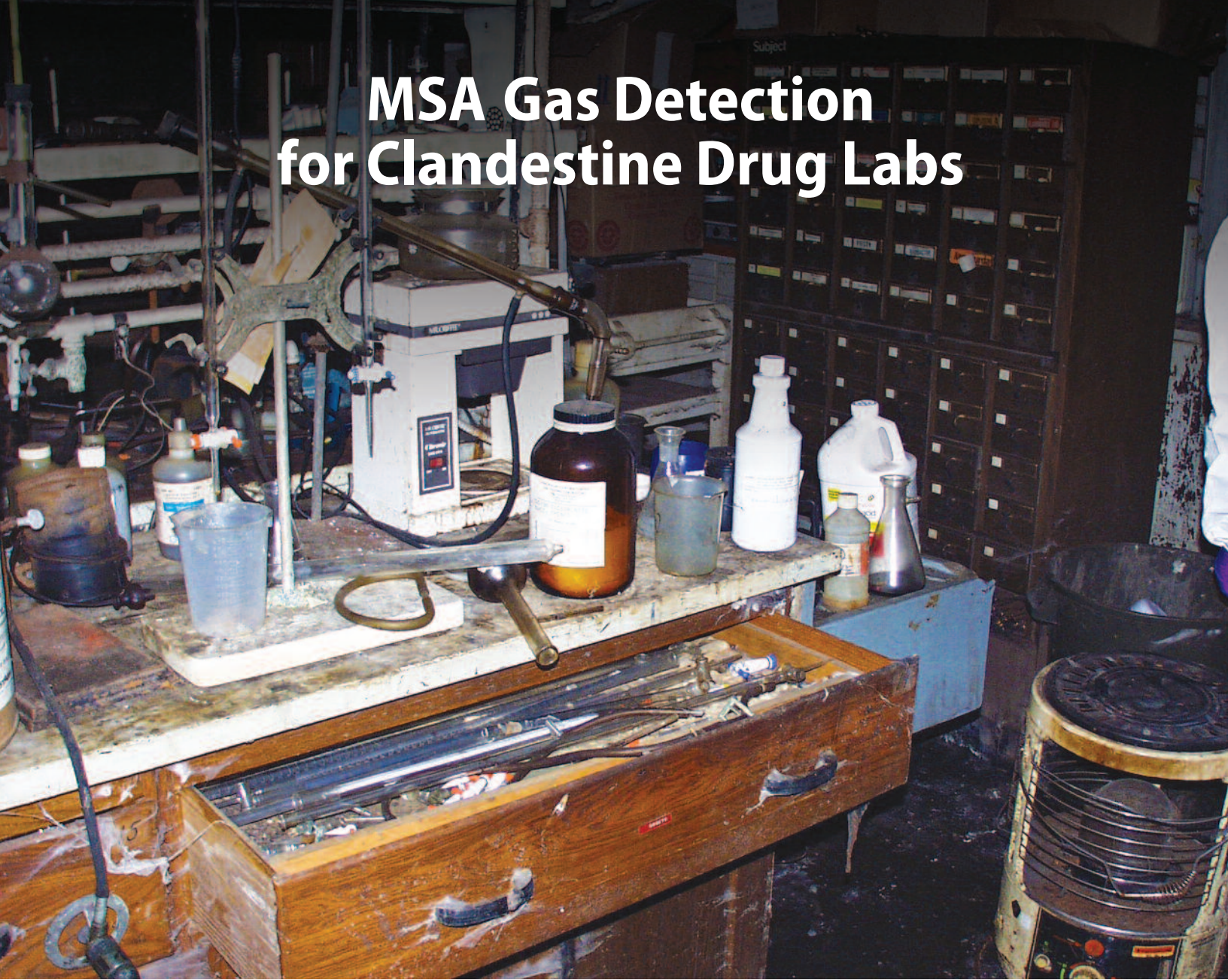


# MSA Gas Detection for Clandestine Drug Labs



The number of clandestine drug labs or “clan labs” has increased dramatically in recent years, chiefly due to the popularity of methamphetamine, a particularly potent and highly addictive chemical stimulant. Methamphetamine, AKA crystal meth or crank can be produced cheaply and quickly in small spaces using common kitchen equipment and drugstore items.

Several “cook” methods employ a menu of toxic and combustible substances, among them pseudoephedrine, lithium metal strips, hydrochloric acid, acetone, iodine, lye, hydriodic acid, red phosphorus, mercuric chloride, phosphine, and ammonia. Hotplates, strainers, garden hoses, cooking pots, and other ordinary household items are used to outfit a small operator’s laboratory.

Methamphetamine abuse can result in serious health conditions to users and those associated with them: neighbors, first responders, medical personnel, and cleanup crews. Meth users risk long-term physiological effects such as aggression and psychosis, as well as heart, brain, and nerve damage. First responders and health workers risk exposure to toxic substances while treating a lab operator injured in a clan lab explosion.

Methamphetamine manufacturing can cause environmental concerns: groundwater contamination of property, plus damage to homes due to lab explosions caused by careless handling of combustible gases. It is imperative that those entrusted with the task of seeking out and closing down clan labs employ proper portable gas detection instruments to reduce risks associated with these hazardous undertakings.

MSA's **Sirius® Multigas Detector with PID** (Photoionization detector) is an excellent choice for workers at clan lab sites. PIDs measure volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as benzene, toluene, and acetone, all typical substances used in meth production. PIDs use an ultraviolet lamp to ionize chemical compounds, and then display its concentration in parts-per-million (ppm). PIDs also outperform other technologies in response speed as well as the capability to detect very low gas concentrations levels.



MSA's **ALTAIR® 5X Multigas Detector** uses specific electrochemical sensors to detect other clan lab contaminants such as ammonia and phosphine in addition to detection of combustible and various toxic gases, and oxygen deficiency. Proper gas detection instruments are essential tools for clan lab site work, offering the ideal combination of ease of use, response speed, sensitivity, and versatility so vital to providing maximum benefit and safety to workers and their communities.



For more information on these and other MSA gas detection instruments, contact MSA Customer Service at 1.800.MSA.2222. Visit [msanet.com](http://msanet.com) to view the following product bulletins:

- **Sirius Multigas Detector bulletin #0803-10**
- **ALTAIR 5X Multigas Detector bulletin #0802-46**



Note: This Bulletin contains only a general description of the products shown. While uses and performance capabilities are described, under no circumstances shall the products be used by untrained or unqualified individuals and not until the product instructions including any warnings or cautions provided have been thoroughly read and understood. Only they contain the complete and detailed information concerning proper use and care of these products.



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