



Stream Team Academy Fact Sheet Series

#1: Tree Planting Guide

#2: Spotlight on the Big Muddy

#3: Lewis & Clark

#4: Missouri Is Number One?

Watch for more Stream Team Academy Fact Sheets coming your way soon. Plan to collect the entire educational series for future reference!

MISSOURI IS NUMBER ONE?

An Educational Series For Stream Teams To Learn and Collect

DID YOU KNOW MISSOURI . . .

- ◆ Is one of only two states to share borders with eight other states? The other is Tennessee.
- ◆ Is home of the first public university west of the Mississippi River? The University of Missouri in Columbia was established in 1839¹ and the first “homecoming” game was held there in 1911 against the Kansas Jayhawks.²
- ◆ Is home to the largest single outlet spring? Big Spring, near Van Buren, has an average output of 286 million gallons per day.³
- ◆ Is first in greeting card production? Hallmark Cards is located in Kansas City.⁴
- ◆ Ranks first in production of cows per unit of land? Missouri produces approximately 30 cows per square meter of land.⁵
- ◆ Was the first state to emancipate its slaves before the adoption of the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution on January 11, 1865?⁶
- ◆ **Is first in the number of methamphetamine lab seizures?**

That’s right. Unfortunately, Missouri is at the top of the list when it comes to the number of methamphetamine labs busted each year. A very dubious honor, isn’t it? Missouri led the nation in meth lab seizures

every year between 2001 and 2011, shutting down nearly 2,100 labs in 2011 alone.⁷ The number of meth lab incidents in Missouri has been steadily increasing since 2007.

Why do we bring this to your attention? It is becoming increasingly likely that you will encounter what is referred to as “meth trash” while on your adopted stream. For your safety, you should be aware of the variety of meth trash that may be out there, some of which can be extremely dangerous. For every pound of methamphetamine produced, six pounds of hazardous waste is generated. Most meth producers do not want to throw this waste in the trash for fear of being caught. Therefore, much of the time this trash is simply dumped. In Missouri, it is becoming increasingly common to find meth trash along roadways and waterways, in the woods, and in public use areas.

The meth producing process uses a variety of common household products. As the “cooking” is done, chemical reactions which build pressure can result in a highly unstable situation – a highly flammable and corrosive hazard that can put anyone near the process or its byproducts at risk for serious injury.

If you find any of the items listed below, or a combination of these items, **do not touch or remove any of the materials or containers.** The best thing to do is to simply leave this stuff alone. Remember, safety first! It is not worth the risk of getting seriously injured.

If you find suspected meth trash, first document the location and alert the other people in your party to the potential hazard. Next, contact your local law enforcement agency (Sheriff’s Department, Conservation Agent, Forest Ranger, etc.) and tell them

what you found and where it is located. The County Sheriff’s Department qualifies for funding for each meth lab seizure carried out. Additionally, they have the proper training and equipment to dispose of these items.

We do not want this to scare you or prevent you from protecting our Missouri stream resources. Rather, we want you to be aware of what is out there and to take the proper precautions. In fact, by simply being out there and visible you can help reduce the amount of meth trash in your

area. Remember that people are dumping these materials because what they are doing is illegal and they do not want to be caught.

A member of Stream Team 41 said it best, “Your presence on the rivers and in the forests can be a deterrent in itself to those who manufacture and distribute illegal drugs. Our watchful eyes and observations can be an aid to the officials and agencies who have the immense responsibility to maintain public safety.”

Please be safe at all times!

SOME THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR

- ☐ **Plastic beverage bottles (e.g., soda bottles)**
 - This can be any size plastic bottle, including soda, Gatorade, and water bottles.

- May have a hole in the lid and plastic tubing in the hole.
- May have a brown residue or contain a liquid with rock salt in the bottom. This may appear as a clear liquid with a white colored solid on the bottom.

Stream Team Academy Fact Sheet #4

- **DO NOT PICK UP OR MOVE!**
Disturbing the bottle can cause a chemical reaction to start and may result in an explosion. Breathing the chemicals can cause permanent damage to your lungs.
- ❑ **Glass jar (e.g. Mason jar) containing what looks like water**
 - This is most likely ether.
 - **DO NOT OPEN!** Ether has a flashpoint of 89°F and can explode when exposed to the air. One gallon of ether is equivalent to one stick of dynamite.
- ❑ **Propane tank, air tank, or any other tank (even a thermos or cooler) with altered, spray painted, or corroded fittings**
 - This may contain anhydrous ammonia. The brass fittings may have a baby blue or green color on them.
 - **DO NOT DISTURB!** Anhydrous ammonia displaces oxygen in the air. Breathing it can cause serious physical harm or death.
- ❑ **Needles or syringes**
 - These may have been used, reused, and shared with others. Many have been found on the river or at river accesses. In addition to the pain of being stuck, you run the risk of contracting diseases.
- ❑ **Rubber gloves**
 - These may have been used during the meth production process and may have hazardous chemical residues on them.
- ❑ **Iodine bottles or crystals**
 - This may be a skin irritant for some people.
- ❑ **Baking dishware with a white residue**
 - This powdery substance may be a remnant of the meth process.
- ❑ **Empty packets or bottles of cold or diet pills**
 - You may find many empty blister packets or pill containers listing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as ingredients.
- ❑ **Coffee filters, vacuum bags, or shop vacuum filters with red, green, or blue stains**
 - You may run across LOTS of coffee filters. These will probably have a white
- pasty substance, white crystals, or red powder on them.
- ❑ **Plastic containers with a chalky substance in the bottom.**
- ❑ **Lithium batteries that have been stripped or disassembled, and may appear burnt**
- ❑ **Empty ether cans**
 - Commonly engine starting fluid is used to supply ether.
- ❑ **Empty fuel containers**
 - Especially Coleman or Heet brands.
- ❑ **Empty drain cleaner or lye containers**
 - Especially Red Devil brand.
- ❑ **Empty muriatic acid containers.**
 - Commonly found in swimming pool cleaners.
- ❑ **Concealment containers**
 - These may look like ordinary household products however, the bottom may unscrew.
- ❑ **Bent spoons**
- ❑ **Funnels**
- ❑ **Bags of table or rock salt**
- ❑ **Books of matches with striking heads or strips removed or emptied road flares**
 - May occur in conjunction with empty acetone (nail polish remover) or iodine containers.
- ❑ **Hot plates, portable stoves, or torches**
- ❑ **Chemical ice packs that have been damaged**



Sources:

- 1 The University of Missouri – MU Facts (<http://www.missouri.edu/mufacts.htm>)
 - 2 Mizzou Homecoming 2004 (<http://www.mizzou.com/homecoming/history.html>)
 - 3 Missouri Department of Tourism – Fast Facts (<http://www.visitmo.com/mainpage.cfm?SectionID=1&LeftNavID=1&SubNavID=0&BottomNavID=0>)
 - 4 Infoplease.com – Kansas City (<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108539.html>)
 - 5 Darrh Bullock, University of Kentucky, Beef Cattle Extension, “Cattle Concentration by State” 2009 (<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/AnimalSciences/pubs/CattleConcentrationsbyState2009.pdf>)
 - 6 State of Missouri, Office of the Secretary of State, State Archives Timeline of Missouri History (<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/history/timeline/timeline6.asp>)
 - 7 Missouri State Highway Patrol Notes, “2011 Statewide Meth Lab Seizures Surpass 2010 Number” (<http://notes.mshp.dps.mo.gov/si01/si01p001.nsf/0/313821588222c5b2862579a7007df2b3?OpenDocument>)
- Much of the information for this article was taken with permission from a presentation by Sgt. Glen Buckner, Texas County Sheriff's Department, June 29, 2004.
- Keegan Hamilton, Riverfront Times, “Methology 101: Old-school meth labs give way to “shake and bake.” 2010. (<http://www.riverfronttimes.com/2010-05-19/news/methology-101-old-school-meth-labs-give-way-to-shake-and-bake/>).