



Methamphetamine in the Forests: Safety and Awareness Training

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Coming across the unexpected adds variety to field work, but variety is no benefit if you come across a methamphetamine (meth) lab. Unfortunately, the chances that Forest Service employees might come across meth users, labs, or waste is real and the consequences can be severe. Anything associated with meth production or use can get you hurt—or worse.

The Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) was asked to develop materials that could be used to train Forest Service field employees. Specifically, the center was asked to prepare compelling tools that instructors could use when building awareness about the hazards of meth users, labs, and waste in the national forests, offering some commonsense suggestions that could help employees stay safe.

The “Methamphetamine in the Forests: Safety and Awareness Training” program is a collection of resources. Individuals can explore these resources on their own or instructors can use the resources in presentations or include them with their own training materials. The main program is a Flash Media presentation (figure 1) that allows viewers to select the information that’s most appealing to them. The Flash presentation can be viewed online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/flash/fla07672F03/> (Username: t-d, Password: t-d).

A CD (0767-2C04-MTDC) that includes the training program (figure 2) can be ordered by sending an e-mail request with your mailing address and phone number to: wo_mtdc_pubs@fs.fed.us. The CD and Web site also include Adobe Acrobat (pdf) files that allow the information in the program to be printed and an abbreviated PowerPoint version of the presentation with speaker’s notes (figure 3).



Figure 1—The opening screen of the Flash Media presentation.

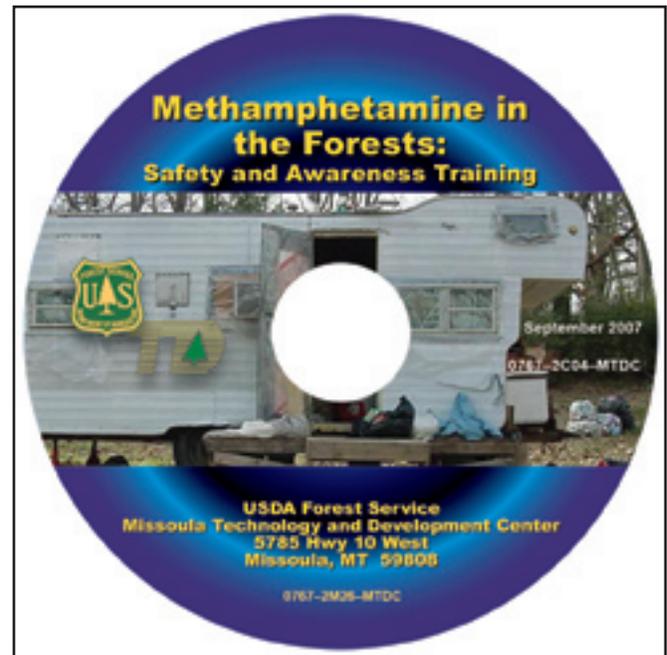


Figure 2—The CD, which can be ordered from MTDC, includes the Flash Media presentation and training aids. The materials can also be downloaded at <http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/flash/fla07672F03/> (Username: t-d, Password: t-d).

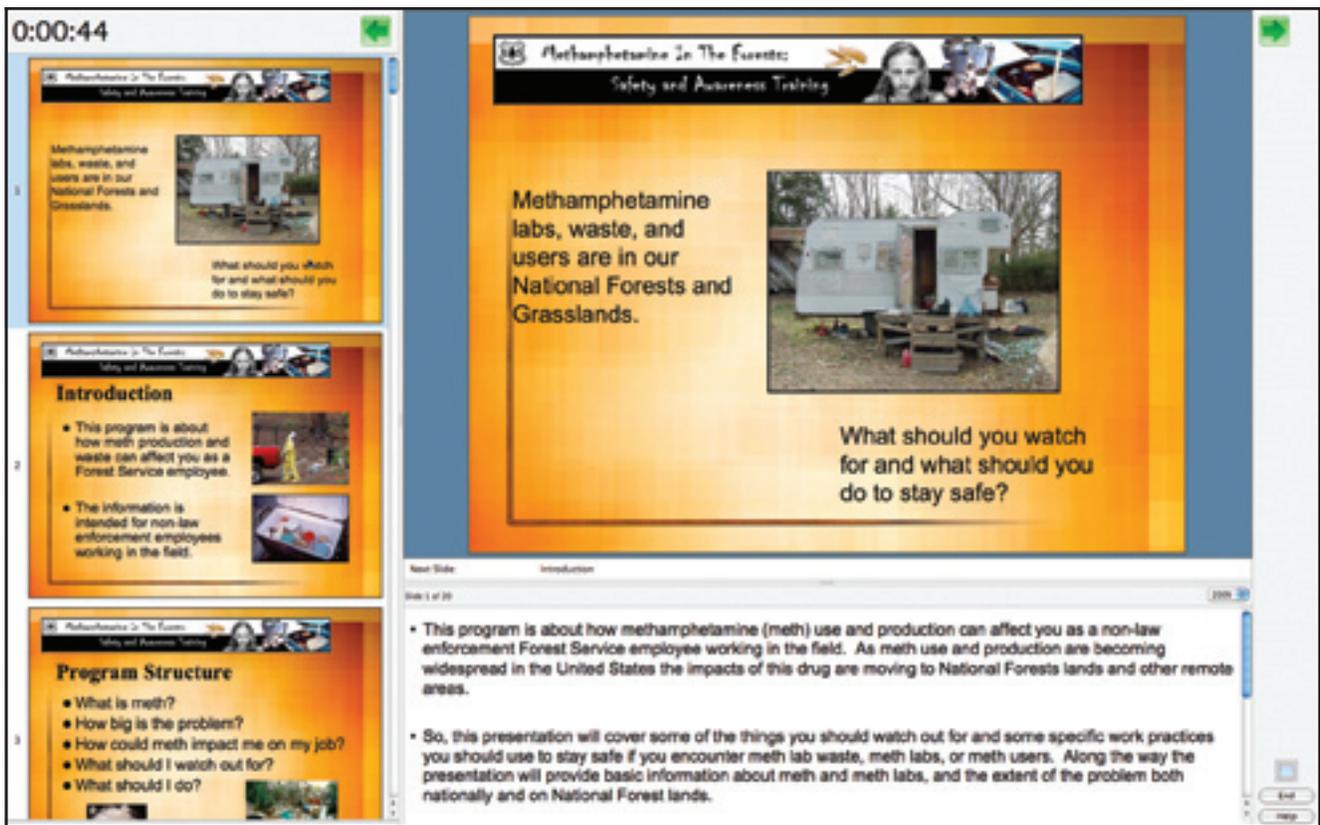


Figure 3—The PowerPoint version of the presentation with the speaker’s notes.

The presentation includes eight topics:

- **Using this presentation**—Explains how to navigate through the Flash Media presentation.
- **Introduction**—Describes the focus and objectives of the presentation.
- **What is meth?**—Covers basic facts about meth, how it is made, the types of toxic wastes it creates, and how it affects users.
- **How big is the problem?**—Examines the extent of meth use, the numbers of clandestine meth labs found in each State, and recent changes in the use and production of the drug.
- **How could meth impact my job?**—Describes how meth users, labs, and waste are moving into national forests and grasslands and the problems they are creating for many Forest Service employees—not just those working in law enforcement.
- **What should I watch out for?**—Details the specific items and telltale signs that alert you to the presence of meth users, labs, or waste.
- **What should I do?**—Describes work practices that can keep you safe if you encounter suspected meth users, labs, or waste.

About the Authors

Theron Miller received his Ph.D. in forestry from the University of Montana in 1997 with an emphasis in natural resources social science. He worked as a research and teaching professor at the University of Montana, focusing on applied social sciences directly related to the management of natural resources on public lands. Theron joined MTDC in 2006 and works as a project leader in the safety and health, recreation, and fire and aviation management programs.

Lisa Outka-Perkins received her master's degree in sociology with an emphasis in criminology from the University of Montana in 2001. She works for MTDC as a sociologist. Her most recent project has been the production of the Forest Service training videos program: "Personal Safety in Remote Work Locations," which includes "Module 1: General Awareness" (0167-2V02-MTDC); "Module 2: Supervisor Responsibilities" (0267-2V01-MTDC); "Module 3: Avoiding Trouble" (0367-2V03-MTDC); and "Module 4: Building Trust in Small Towns" (0567-2V01-MTDC).

Damien Hoffman manages MTDC's Web site and tackles other audiovisual tasks for the center. He joined MTDC in 2004 while working part time as a student at the University of Montana. He has bachelor's degrees in sociology from the University of Minnesota-Morris and in wildlife biology from the University of Montana.

Library Card

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This tech tip discusses a Flash Media training presentation developed to help Forest Service employees who might encounter methamphetamine (meth) labs, waste, or users while working in the field. The presentation is available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/flash/fla07672F03/> (Username: t-d, Password: t-d). It is also included on a CD that can be ordered from the Missoula Technology and Development Center. An abbreviated PowerPoint version of the presentation includes speaker's notes.

Keywords: CDs, drug abuse, Flash Media, labs, meth, PowerPoint, presentations, safety at work, training

Electronic copies of MTDC's documents are available on the Internet at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/t-d.php>

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Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management employees can search a more complete collection of MTDC's documents, videos, and CDs on their internal computer networks at:

<http://fsweb.mtdc wo.fs.fed.us/search/>



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