

INDOOR MARIJUANA GROW HOUSES

FIRST RESPONDER AWARENESS CARD

Marijuana grow houses are houses or other locations in rural, urban and residential areas that are converted for the purposes of growing marijuana. Indoor marijuana grow operations are regularly found by law enforcement and appear to be increasing in numbers.

DISPATCH AND RESPONSE PHASE

- Nature of the call and location are important. When responding get all the dispatch information available via pager, cell phone or MDT (mobile data terminal). DO NOT discuss over radio if possible.
- Does any current activities, operations or intelligence identify the location as a confirmed or possible indoor marijuana growing operation?

ROUTINE OPERATIONS

- If discovering a marijuana operation during routine operations GET OUT!
- Do not touch, move or handle anything.
- Fire risk from these indoor growing operations is very high.
- **Responders should be very cautious of any materials or locations that arouse your curiosity.**

ARRIVAL ON SCENE

- If responding to a marijuana growing operation slow down when approaching the incident and conduct a 360-degree scan during your "windshield survey" of the scene.
- Look for objects and people that seem out of place for the location or time of the call - if it looks suspicious it probably is.
- Establish an outer perimeter and remember location is also a crime scene.
- **Law Enforcement or Drug Enforcement Team must be notified if not already done.**

APPROACHING THE AREA

- Utilize Incident Command System (ICS) and Unified Command.
- Establish hazard Control Zones around the suspected growing operation (Hot, Warm, Cold). Limit the number of responders entering the Hot Zone.
- **Be aware of the possibility of booby traps and explosives!**

RESPONDERS SHOULD BE VERY CAUTIOUS OF ANY ITEMS OR LOCATIONS THAT AROUSE YOUR CURIOSITY!

Response sheet is for training and informational purposes only. Please utilize local guidelines and procedures.

Indoor marijuana growing operation can be discovered during an emergency response or will most likely be discovered when conducting routine response activities. Growing operations been discovered in different locations such as houses, attics, basements, apartments, storage units, barns and other locations.

IDENTIFICATION

- **Responders should be very cautious of any materials or locations that arouse your curiosity.**
- These operations can range from very simple to extremely complex.
- Marijuana Grow Houses often have links to criminal elements and organized crime.
- Mold exposure can be a serious concern.
- To make a location suitable for cultivating marijuana, significant changes are made to the locations structure.
- Almost all marijuana growers will utilize rental property, residence and commercial to avoid damage to their own properties.
- Be aware of unusual structures or equipment such as large numbers of vents.
- Windows are boarded or covered up.
- Excessive condensation on windows year round.
- Bright lights may be seen escaping from windows, and the windows may have a layer of condensation on them day or night.
- High intensity 1,000-watt lamps are normally used and sometimes not completely disguised.
- Equipment used in the growing operation (such as large fans, lights, plastic plant containers and other items) being carried into the home.
- Garbage bags containing used soil and plant material may be discarded in areas surrounding the house.
- Accumulations of waste inside or outside.
- Strong or unusual odors inside or outside.
- Unusual or erratic behavior of individuals at location or in vicinity.
- Electrical boxes and meters may have been tampered with.
- Excessive security measures such as high fences, guard dogs, KEEP OUT signs, chains and locks on gates.
- ***ANY COMBINATION OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED ITEMS!***

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