



# HUD ONAP Crime Prevention National Summit Tackling Meth Challenges Part 1: Testing and Remediation February 4, 2020 Denver, CO



# Presenters



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# Introductions

- Name
- Where you are from
- How did you realize that you had a meth problem in your community?



# Workshop Overview – Part One

- Recognizing meth in your community
- Meth testing and remediation
- Law enforcement issues

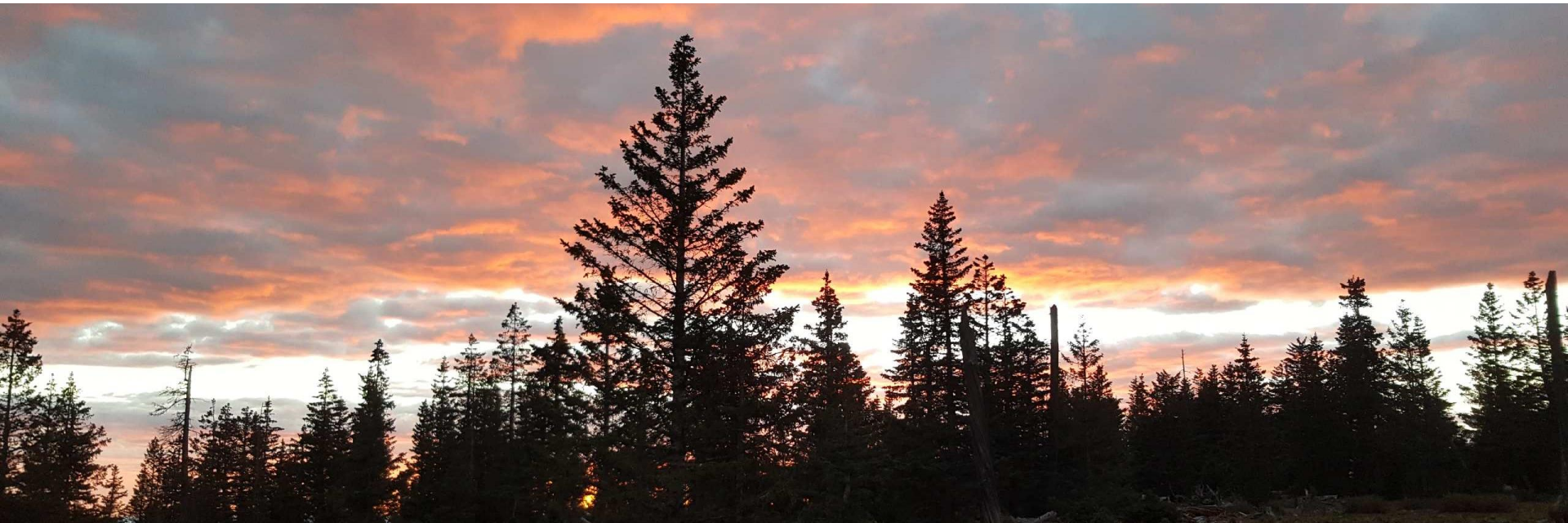


# Workshop Overview – Part Two

- Addressing meth remediation issues in your policies and procedures
- Promoting meth awareness and prevention
- Data collection
- Funding strategies



**Why is meth so prevalent in Indian Country?**



# Why is meth so prevalent in Indian Country?

- Indian Country targeted by international meth dealers
- Tribal police forces underfunded and understaffed
- Socioeconomic conditions on reservations
- Limited health care and meth treatment resources

*Methamphetamine in Indian Country: An American Program Uniquely Affecting Indian Country. (November 2006).*



# Recognizing Meth in Your Community





# What is methamphetamine?



- Amphetamine (parent drug of meth) first made in 1887 in Germany
- Discovered to have medical benefits to widen airways to treat asthma, allergies and colds
- Meth first synthesized in Japan in 1919
- Given to soldiers in WW2 to help them stay awake.

# HOW METH IS USED



**SMOKED**



**INJECTED**



**SNORTED**



**INGESTED**

# Why People Use Meth

- To improve physical performance
- To stay awake to complete tasks
- Appetite suppressant to lose weight
- To feel good and escape



# Long-term Effects of Chronic Meth Use

- Violent and psychotic behavior
- Hallucinations and delusions
- Severe tooth decay
- Severe weight loss
- Chronic depression
- Homicidal or suicidal thoughts
- Brain damage or stroke







# Evidence of Meth in Your Community

- Recognizing meth
- Paraphernalia
- Changes in physical behavior of tenants



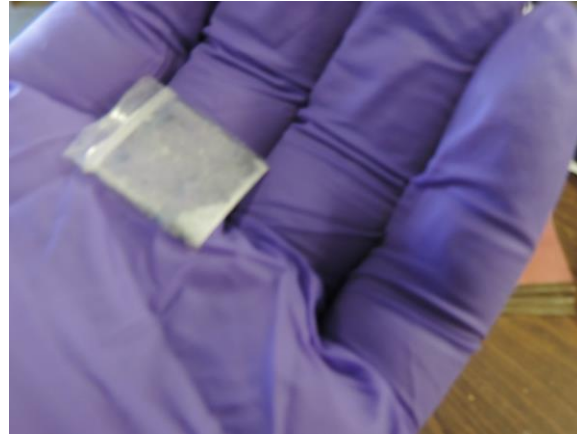
# What Meth Looks Like



- White or light brown crystalline powder
- Clear chunky crystals that resemble broken pieces of ice, shards of glass
- Liquid form
- Pills



# Methamphetamine Paraphernalia





# Methamphetamine Paraphernalia



# Changes in Physical Behavior of Tenants



No sleep for long periods



Loss of appetite



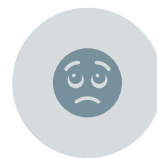
Loss of large amount of weight rapidly



Appear unusually active



Can seem nervous, anxious or paranoid



Dilated pupils

# Evidence of Meth from Housing Inspectors

- Lips getting numb
- Funny metallic taste in their mouth
- Heart starts racing
- Funny smell, like burnt sugar, kitty litter, carburetor/brake cleaner
- Urine in glass on windowsills





# Meth Testing and Remediation Process



# Doesn't meth just go away eventually?

- No, meth does not degrade over time!
- Attaches to surfaces in house or car where it is smoked.
- Non-porous surfaces (like textured drywall) should be cleaned.
- Need to ensure safety and habitability of families, especially elders and children.



# Meth Contamination Affects Non-Users!

One family tested positive for meth after buying food from vendor who smoked meth.

Elders tested positive for meth, living in a home where meth is smoked.

One child got high on meth from wearing clothes contaminated by meth.



# Meth Clean-up Standards

- As sovereign nations, tribes can develop their own laws and regulations regarding meth clean-up
- Many tribes consider a comprehensive and conservative approach to protect workers, tenants and the public
- It may be considered prudent risk management to follow state guidelines
- A resource: [www.methlabcleanup.com](http://www.methlabcleanup.com) lists state regulations
- THIS IS NOT LEGAL ADVICE! CONSULT WITH YOUR TRIBAL ATTORNEY!

# What Regulations Address



Owner liability, penalties, property use and transfer restrictions



Public listings of contaminated properties and disclosure requirements about contamination



Notifications and posting requirements



Who can remediate and sample and what kind of training they need



How to do cleaning (sometimes)



What concentrations are considered “clean”

# What is consider a safe level of contamination?

- Most states adopt a concentration level that is considered safe. These levels range in the area of: 1.05, 0.1, 0.5
- Arizona has one of the highest levels in the nation at 1.5
- White Mountain Apache Housing Authority adopted a level of 0.033
- We have seen contamination levels as high as 48, 62, 93 and even 110!

# WMAHA's Meth Testing/Cleaning Process

1. Security Department tests unit using AccuMeth test kit.

<https://www.methlabcleanup.com/Meth-Field-Test-Kit.html>

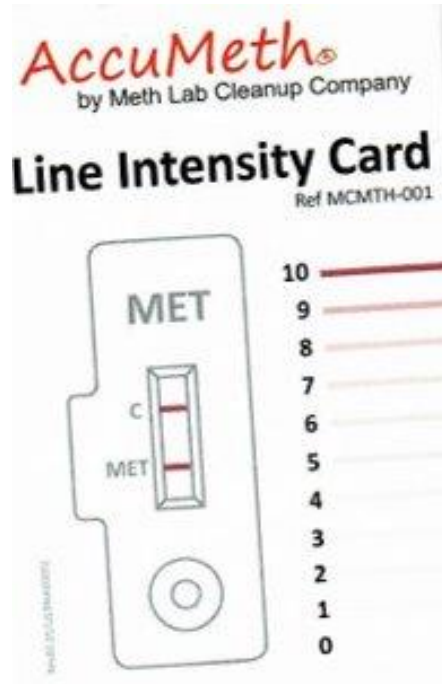


# What usually triggers testing for meth contamination in housing units?



- Security/police calls
- Tenant move-out
- Occupancy inspections
- Request for rehabilitation services
- Suspicious activity

# Preliminary Testing Process



- Security uses AccuMeth test kits from Meth Lab Cleanup. Cost is \$129 for five-pack.
- WMAHA Drug Policy covers why and when a unit can be tested for meth.
- Testing is done by Security Officers which will only read a Positive or Negative results.
- Over 60% of the 637 homes tested from 2017 to 2019 have been positive. (388 of 637)

# WMAHA's Meth Testing/Cleaning Process

2. If positive, contractor washes the unit (three times) and re-tests. Wait up to 10 days for test results.
3. If unit is still positive, contractor washes again until tests negative.
4. Once test results are safe, Maintenance Department begins renovation procedures.



# WMAHA's Cleaning Process

- Supervised by a Certified Supervisor.
- A unit is washed a total of three times and could take up to 4 hours.
- Cleans HVAC, ceiling and walls, and then floor.
- The ceiling and walls are sprayed with a pressure washer then scrubbed and rinsed, and the water vacuum up into a storage tank.





# Vacant Unit Renovations

**Once unit is clean, Maintenance Department does renovations:**

- Clean appliances, bathtub, shower stall and cabinets
- Repair work to drywall, doors, cabinets, plumbing, electrical.
- Paint walls
- Repair, clean and wax floors
- Repair windows and roof
- Unit ready, final inspections, tenant moves in

# Safety Considerations



TENANTS



STAFF



GENERAL  
PUBLIC

# Protecting Staff

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations
- Hazard Awareness and Training
- Personnel Protective Equipment
- Health and Safety Plans
- Air Monitoring Equipment
- Job Hazard Assessments



# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

## Four Levels of Protection

- Level A
- Level B
- Level C
- Level D





# Law Enforcement Challenges



# Challenges on Fort Apache Reservation

- WMAT Police Department understaffed
- Little involvement from federal law enforcement officials
- No juvenile detention facility
- Tribal code provisions for meth (and enforcement) are lenient



# WMAHA Security Department



	WMAT Police Department	WMAHA Security Department
<b>Full-time Officers</b>	13	14
<b>Part-time Officers</b>		6
<b>Dispatchers</b>	6	3
<b>Total Staff</b>	19	23

# Security Officers Enforce Housing Policies

- Zero Tolerance for Drugs and Alcohol Policy
- Proper House Cleaning Policy
- Lease Agreement
- Pet Policy



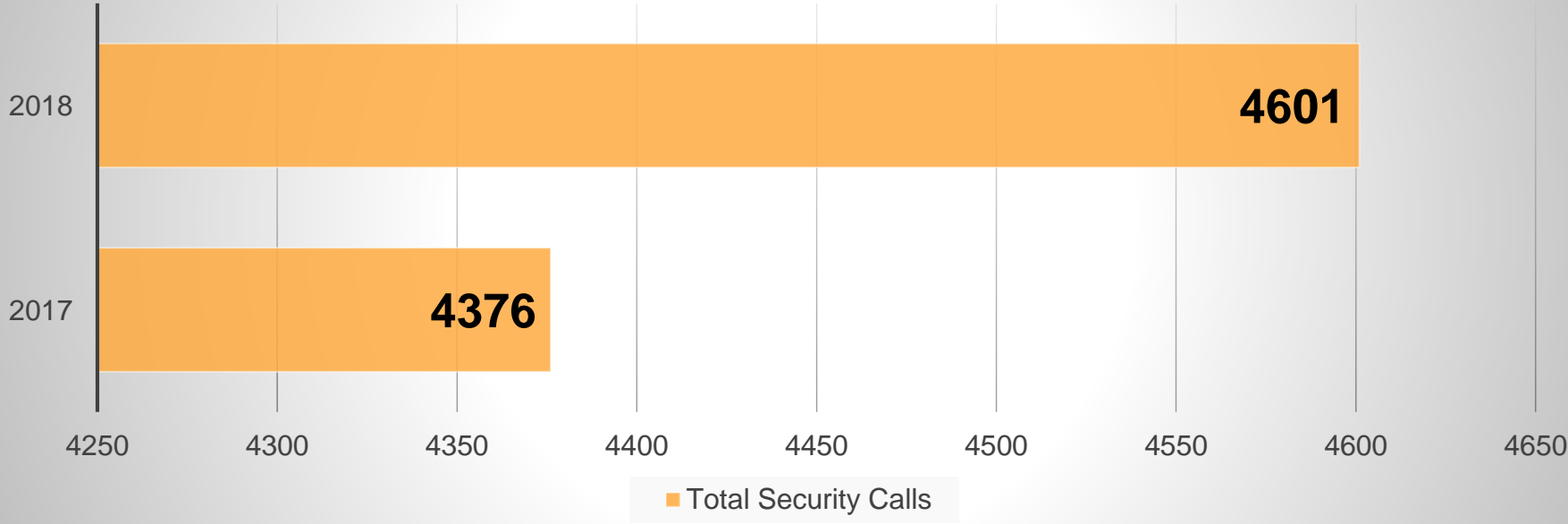


# Security Department Inspections

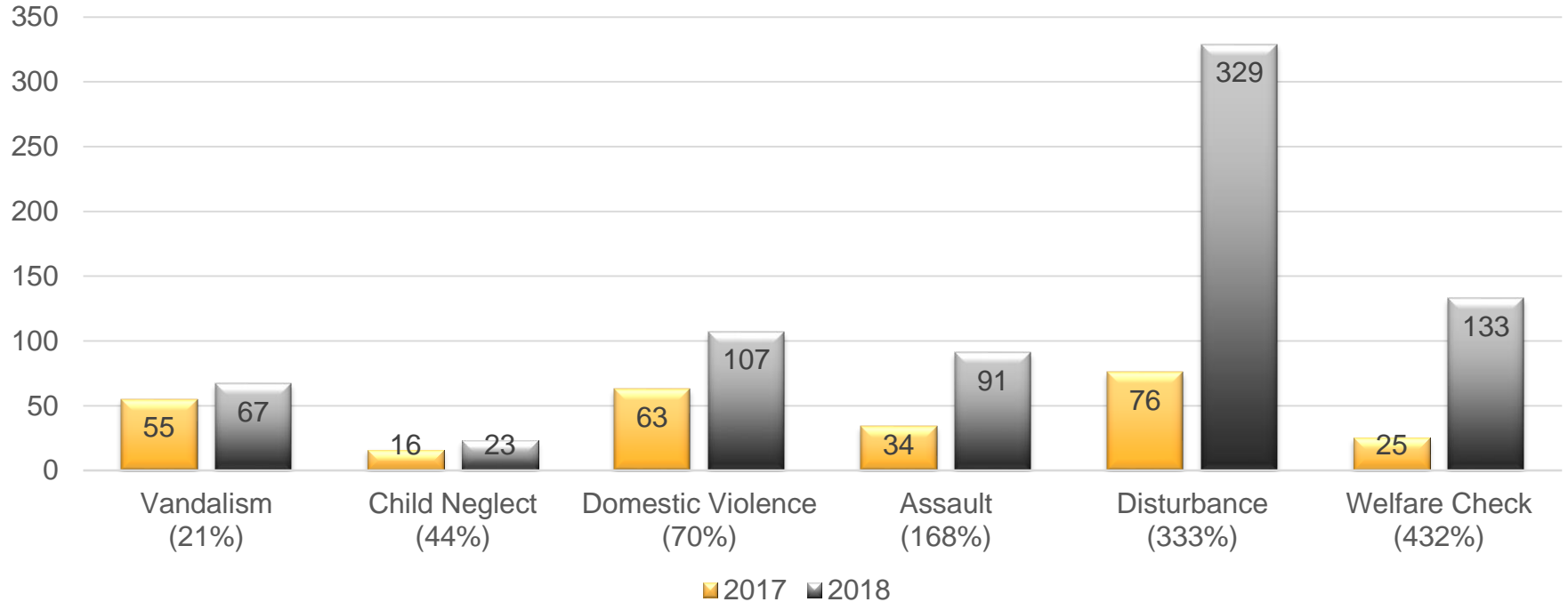
- May request that Housing Management conducts inspection
- May enter unit for safety and wellness of themselves, public and tenants
- When inside residence and drugs or paraphernalia are visible in plain site, may be probable cause for drug testing

# Security Calls Increased by 5% 2017-2018

## Total Security Calls



# Increase in Select Security Calls 2017-2018



# Contact Info

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# White Mountain Apache Housing Authority

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