

Fertilizer Industry Methamphetamine Task Force

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FERTILIZER INDUSTRY METH TASK FORCE MEETS

Group Encourages Use of All Methods to Deter Theft of Anhydrous Ammonia

Washington, D.C. – The Fertilizer Industry Methamphetamine Task Force met yesterday to review all anti-meth best management practices, including calcium nitrate to be used as a nurse tank additive. The meeting came on the heels of Iowa's announcement late last month of the availability of calcium nitrate as a meth inhibitor.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration research found that meth cooks who use untreated anhydrous ammonia typically get a 42 percent yield of pseudoephedrine for conversion to meth. However, that yield drops to two percent or less when the calcium nitrate inhibitor is added. Retailers who choose to use calcium nitrate will receive the formula for injecting calcium nitrate into anhydrous ammonia.

The addition of calcium nitrate is the latest voluntary industry effort to join the fight against the theft of anhydrous ammonia for the illegal production of methamphetamine. The availability of GloTell, a fluorescent pink additive, was announced in August 2004. In addition, a tank lock

program and strong regulatory controls, both at the state and national level, on the key meth ingredient, pseudoephedrine, have helped to keep anhydrous ammonia out of the wrong hands.

The task force encourages retailers to use the most appropriate voluntary method for each facility. Best management practices, such as GloTell, nurse tank locks, increased pseudoephedrine regulation and now calcium nitrate work together to decrease anhydrous ammonia theft.

The Fertilizer Industry Methamphetamine Task Force is comprised of the Agricultural Retailers Association, The Fertilizer Institute, state fertilizer associations, and several producers, distributors and retailers of anhydrous ammonia fertilizer in North America.

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The Fertilizer Industry Methamphetamine Task Force represents the producers, distributors and retailers of anhydrous ammonia fertilizer in North America. The task force works with federal and local law enforcement agencies, as well as researchers and industry professionals in an effort to deter the theft of anhydrous ammonia for the production of methamphetamine.