

Reporting Incidents

If you have accumulated information or logs to report, you can contact your local law enforcement agency or the Lincoln Interagency Narcotics Team (LINT) at (541) 265-8101. For any incident that is in progress and needs immediate emergency response, call 9-1-1.

What to expect from the reports

Law enforcement will take your information and log sheets, but will seldom share any information with you. This may seem like an unfair one-way street, but is necessary to maintain the integrity and safety of any investigation into the suspected drug house. Sometimes, the information provided by a citizen helps an already pending investigation, and the information helps law enforcement obtain a search warrant. Other times, the information begins the process of investigation, which may take many months. Sometimes, enough information for a search warrant is never obtained. However, in such cases, diligence often eventually pays off.

Calling 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency

Call 911 for any crime that is occurring, or if anyone is in immediate danger. Remain calm and speak clearly. Give brief, specific answers. Each dispatcher is following protocol, so be patient and give them the information they are requesting. Have addresses written down by the phone, your address, and the suspected drug house address. Give as many details as you can about the person or vehicle you are reporting, including the direction of travel. Stay on the line until the dispatcher ends the call.

What to expect when you call 9-1-1

1. The operator will ask you what you are reporting. It is the operator's primary job to determine the seriousness of your particular situation and what type of help will best meet your needs.
2. The operator will then need to confirm address and telephone number information and determine what agency should be dispatched to respond.
3. Your call may be transferred. The operator will assist you by providing information to the proper authorities.
4. Depending on your situation, medical or police assistance may be sent.

LINT Office
P.O. Box 947
52 NE 73rd Street
Newport, OR 97365
Phone (541) 265-8101
Fax (541) 265-8653

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**LINCOLN
INTERAGENCY
NARCOTICS
TEAM**



Drug houses

Thank you for contacting law enforcement about a potential drug house in your neighborhood.

In this brochure you will find basic information about drug houses, indicators for identifying a possible drug house, a log sheet to track suspected drug house activities and contact information for the **Lincoln Interagency Narcotics Team (LINT)** to report suspected drug houses.

Citizens have the power to make change. Every citizen should be willing to take on part of the responsibility for protecting the health and welfare of their neighborhood and their community. Drug abuse is a community problem, and the only way that the problem can be resolved is with an active and involved community.

The information and contact that you have with law enforcement can be kept confidential under most circumstances. You can report incidents and ask not to be identified, but law enforcement needs the cooperation of concerned citizens to build viable cases. Statements made from identifiable sources carry far greater weight than anonymous tips.

Knowing what the law allows and what the authorities can and cannot do will save you a lot of frustration. Citizens should know that law enforcement will handle the information given to them professionally and properly. It is equally important for citizens to understand that the law does not permit law enforcement authorities to act on information of suspicion alone. If that were the case, drug houses could be shut down immediately, but at the sacrifice of our own precious liberties and freedoms.

The same Constitutional provisions that protect law-abiding citizens also protect suspected criminals. All citizens have the right to freedom from unlawful searches and seizures of their person, their vehicles, and their homes. The same rules apply to you as they do to the occupants of the suspected drug house in your neighborhood.

- Loud voices and shouting that may include comments about drugs.

Change in Conditions

- Accumulations of trash or junk.
- Deterioration / neglect of the house, yard and surrounding property.

Characteristics of labs and / or marijuana grows

- Garage door never open.
- Blinds always closed or windows covered on the inside or boarded up.
- Chemical containers, Iodine bottles, lye, cold medication packs, book matches, butane cans and solvents, being taken in / out of the house or left in trash.
- Strong chemical or caustic smells like paint thinner or ammonia emitting from the house.
- Propane tanks with fittings that have blue-colored corrosion.
- Black mold / mildew on walls.
- Strong "skunk-like" marijuana smell emitting from house.
- Strong masking odors like mothballs, bleach, etc.
- Moisture visible on inside of windows.
- Loud humming noise from house (transformers, generators, fans).
- Pots, potting soil bags, barrels, PVC tubing, plastic sheeting and large lights taken inside house.
- Intensely bright light emitting from cracks in window coverings or around doors.
- Excessive security.
- Too many and / or oddly placed exhaust vents.
- Framing lumber / plywood being carried inside, people will sometimes build interior rooms to conceal marijuana grow or lab operations.

Occupants

- Diminished hygiene.
- Occupants go outside to smoke.
- Occupants never leave / don't work.
- Occupant is awake or sleeps for days at a time.
- Children not being watched / cared for / not going to school.
- Lots of young visitors, especially when the occupants do not have children of that age group.
- Avoids contact with or is hostile towards neighbors.

Surroundings

- Increased crime in the neighborhood, especially crimes of opportunity like vehicle thefts, thefts from vehicles, criminal mischief and burglaries.
- Other neighbors exhibiting unusual behavior, frequenting the drug house, defending the occupants behavior or acting as look-outs.

Personal safety is your first priority. Many drug addicts, drug dealers, meth cooks and marijuana growers commit other crimes and acts of violence, frequently associating with other violent individuals.

Education - Educate yourself so you will know what to look for and what to watch out for. The more you know, the better you can protect yourself and the better witness you will be.

Documentation is the key to building a case against a drug house. Keep good, consistent records.

Accuracy is essential. The information you give to authorities must be correct and true to the best of your knowledge. Only give information you know to be true. There could be serious consequences to knowingly giving incorrect information. Bolstering a statement or a 911 call to get a higher priority response may put you in jeopardy. You could be called on to testify to your statements, so they need to be without embellishment or speculation.

Indicators - Certain activities are common at many drug houses. Generally, one or two of these indicators does not mean you have a drug house in your neighborhood. And indicators are not always evidence of a drug house. These are circumstances that cumulatively create a reasonable amount of suspicion that warrants further investigation. The following are some of the indicators you can look for or that can be noted on a log sheet.

Traffic

- Vehicles stopping for short stays of 15 minutes or less, just long enough for someone to go in and make a buy.
- Large number of visitors over short periods of time.
- Cars left running with someone in the car while another runs inside.
- At night, cars arrive and leave with lights off.
- The house has different characteristics when traffic picks up, such as a new light is turned on - some kind of signal that drugs are available.
- Vehicles speeding to and from house.

Foot Traffic

- People parking away from the house and walking in.
- Unkempt, disoriented or paranoid-acting visitors.

Tangible, credible evidence needs to be collected in order to obtain a search warrant. Even after a search warrant is served, there are many processes that have to take place prior to a trial. All of these things take time, sometimes many months. And while all this is going on, the same suspects may be back at their house selling drugs again.

Diligence is one of the most successful traits needed to combat a drug house. These problems will not be resolved overnight. It takes the combined efforts of citizens and public and private agencies to rid a neighborhood of a drug house. There may be times when fear and frustration may cause you to want to just give up or move, but citizens should be committed to obtaining long term results in order to take back control of their neighborhoods.

Drug houses come in many varieties. Some are simply places where drug addicts use drugs. Others can be places where drugs, like methamphetamine, are made or where marijuana is grown.

Drug houses are always dangerous, and should be treated with extreme caution. People who have used drugs for a length of time, can be irritable, paranoid, potentially violent and delusional. They will sometimes use physical violence, construct booby traps or possess firearms to protect their lab or marijuana grow, which may be their only source of income. Citizens should avoid any confrontation with a person suspected of being under the influence of drugs.

Drug houses that have a meth lab are extremely dangerous!

Methamphetamine labs generate toxic waste and gases, and have a high probability of catching fire and / or exploding. Direct contact with any clandestine lab should always be avoided. When discovered, specially trained and equipped law enforcement officers will handle and process a lab.

Drug houses where marijuana is grown can have serious health hazards, that include the potential of electrocution / fire due to improperly installed / exposed wiring, caustic chemicals, respiratory disease due to toxic molds, respiratory failure due to oxygen deficient enclosures where CO2 generators are used and fire / explosion danger when using butane to extract hash oil.

Neighborhood Activity Log

Never place yourself in any danger trying to gather information. Always call 911 immediately if there is any reason to believe you or someone else is in danger or that there is an in-progress crime being committed.

Date	Start Time	Activity Description	License Number / State	Vehicle Description	# of Persons	Name or Description of Each Person	End Time
/ /	: <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM						: <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM
/ /	: <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM						: <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM
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/ /	: <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM						: <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM

Filling out the Neighborhood Activity Log:

Anytime there is a notable activity at the suspected drug house, it can be logged on this sheet. Copy and use as many sheets as you need to accurately describe what you are observing. **Similar Citizen Reporting Logs and Drug Activity Reports can be down-loaded from the "How do I" section of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Website at: www.lincolncountysheriff.net**

Start with the **date** that the activity occurs on. The **start time** is when the activity is first observed, for example when a vehicle pulls in or when a person walks up. Note the time the activity **ends**, the vehicle / person leaves.

Describe the **activity**. Documented activity has to be specific and factual. Conclusions cannot be used to establish the probable cause needed to obtain a search warrant. In other words, **document exactly what you see, not what you think is happening**, otherwise the statement is not useful to law enforcement. **Examples of what is meant are:**

DO NOT WRITE

A drug deal occurred on the front porch

15 cars visited the residence over a two two-week period.

Provide **vehicle descriptions**, such as color, make, model, number of doors, damage or alterations. If you are able, also record vehicle **license plate numbers, which helps identify visitors**. Note the **number of people** involved in an incident or activity and **describe each person**. Include clothing descriptions; they often wear the same distinctive clothes for days at a time and may match other criminal activity reports.

DO WRITE

The resident (name or description) placed something into the hand of visitor while standing on the front porch. Write down what both people did next; go in side, leave, etc. What did the visitor do with the object? Did they look nervous, look around, etc.?

If possible, list the month, the day and times individual vehicles arrived and departed. Include if the vehicle was left running, if the driver goes in the house leaving passenger in vehicle, if the visitor parks a block away and walks to house, etc.

Completed forms can be delivered to your local Police / Sheriff's Office or mailed to the **Lincoln Interagency Narcotics Team at: LINT, PO Box 947, Newport, OR, 97365** or dropped off at the **LINT Office** located at the Oregon State Police Office at **52 NE 73rd St., Newport, OR** , or faxed to **LINT at (541) 265-8243**. If you have any questions please contact a LINT Detective at (541) 265-8101.