



Press Release
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The North Fond du Lac Police Department's "Meth Lab Awareness and Prevention Initiative" has been named the winner of the 2005 Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioner's Association (WCPPA) Crime Prevention Project of the Year Category 1 Award. The North Fond du Lac Police Department also received this award in 2000. In a prepared statement, Chief William Lamb said, "This is the 2nd time in only 5 years that our department has won this award. Additionally, this is the 3rd state wide award that we've won in that short period of time. I am very proud of the members of this department. It takes a great deal of hard work, dedication, and a commitment to excellence to achieve what we have in the past 5 years. I am also very proud of the residents of this community who have teamed with us time and again to combat problems in the community. We are fortunate to enjoy some very strong community partnerships, and this is a great example of residents mobilizing and working together with us to make a real difference."

Sergeant Colette Jaeger submitted the nomination, detailing the department's response to growing concerns about methamphetamine production in North Fond du Lac after the fourth meth lab bust in just 2 ½ years in May of 2003. At that time, the North Fond du Lac Police Department "drew a line in the sand" and actively involved the entire community to proactively address the issue.

The nomination specifically highlighted Chief Lamb's and Sergeant Jaeger's efforts in spearheading a three-part meth lab prevention initiative that reached out to their community and all of Fond du Lac County. Prior to the launch of that initiative, Chief Lamb and Jaeger met with a group of residents who lived near the labs which were seized and cleaned up. Those community members provided a unique perspective regarding living with the hazardous presence, cleanup, and aftermath of the production of methamphetamines. The issues and concerns they felt were important for themselves and others to consider in the detection of the presence of meth production were utilized throughout the prevention initiative.

The first of the three-part initiative was a training session for law enforcement officers, fire department personnel, and members of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). A four hour training session was presented to police, fire, and EMS personnel from throughout Fond du Lac County. The training, which focused on

the dangers of meth production, manufacturing and use trends, signs/symptoms and dangers associated with abusers, signs of a lab/manufacturing operation, and actions to take as first responders to meth production labs, was presented by a methamphetamine specialist from the Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI).

The second part of the initiative was a public informational session held at the North Fond du Lac High School auditorium. Invitations to this session were personally extended to those residents who lived near the sites of those previously identified and seized labs. Additionally, fliers were distributed door-to-door throughout the community, press releases were sent to local newspapers, and public service announcements were made on local radio stations.

The third part of the initiative was aimed at the retail industry. Letters were sent to all of the law enforcement agencies in Fond du Lac County requesting their assistance in educating retail employees who sell those materials used in the production of meth. It was the hope and intent of the department that following receipt of educational materials, those employees and retail businesses would limit the purchases of some of those needed ingredients and report suspicious purchases to police.

The department is grateful that the preventative action and stand against meth production seem to have made a remarkable impact on the quality of life fears that many held in May of 2003. In April of 2005, the North Fond du Lac Police and the community revisited this initiative. Neighborhood residents report that things have changed dramatically since then. One resident said, "It's made the neighborhoods much more aware of what's going on around them. People are watching now, and they know what to look for. There's going to be phone calls made [to the police] if things look suspicious." According to Chief Lamb and Jaeger, methamphetamine education remains a priority for the department. They hope that the combined efforts of their agency and residents will continue to keep meth labs out of North Fond du Lac.

North Fond du Lac Police will receive the award on Thursday, September 29, 2005 at the annual WCPPA conference in Wausau. This is the third award in 5 years the North Fond du Lac Police Department has received for its initiatives in community and problem solving efforts. In addition to the two WCPPA awards, the Wisconsin Association of Community Oriented Police (WACOP) selected the "Neighborhood Oriented Policing – A Community-Wide Response" program as the winner of the 2001 Sir Robert Peel Award.