What is crystal meth?
Crystal meth (crystal methamphetamine) is a dangerous, highly addictive drug. Users swallow, inhale, smoke or inject it. It’s cheap and widely available. Crystal meth causes physical and mental damage including:
- structural damage to the brain
- damage to the heart
- rotting teeth
- extreme fever and convulsions
- bone erosion
- poor sexual function
- panic attacks
- terrifying hallucinations

How does crystal meth affect the body?
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How does crystal meth affect communities?
Anhydrous ammonia fertilizer, used by farmers, is a key ingredient in one of several formulas for making crystal meth. It is very expensive on the black market and theft of this chemical from farms and fertilizer dealers is on the rise in Western Canada and the Midwestern U.S.

Drug dealers only need small amounts of anhydrous ammonia to make crystal meth. Unsecured or unattended farm supplies are an easy target for such dealers. Thieves with physical descriptions of suspicious people asking to buy anhydrous ammonia from you or any unfamiliar person hanging around your farm. Provide the police with physical descriptions of suspicious people and their vehicles if you can.

How to help safeguard your anhydrous ammonia supplies:
- Position tanks in secluded areas, out of sight from roads, to discourage accidental discovery by thieves.
- Make sure tanks are delivered as close to the time of application as possible to shorten the time they are left unattended in the fields.
- Bleed and remove hoses at the end of each day to remove excess liquid and to prevent collection of any spillage from the hoses.
- Check tanks at night and in the morning for signs of tampering. Note any changes to the level of ammonia.
- Return tanks to the dealer immediately after use.
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- Make sure tanks are delivered as close to the time of application as possible to shorten the time they are left unattended in the fields.
- Keep the bung plug on the bottom of the tank painted and no trespassing signs on your property.

How to Respond
If you suspect that your anhydrous ammonia tanks have been tampered with, it is important to respond quickly and safely:
- Leave the area undisturbed and keep others away from it.
- Block road lanes or entrances near the tank with a gate or barricade.
- Inspect and record the condition of nurse tanks upon delivery, after use and when you return them to the fertilizer dealer.
- If there will be a delay in using all of the anhydrous ammonia in the tank, consider returning unused portions to the fertilizer dealer and ordering a different tank when starting up again.
- Contact the RCMP to report any unfamiliar people asking to buy anhydrous ammonia from you or any unfamiliar people hanging around your farm. Provide the police with physical descriptions of suspicious people and their vehicles if you can.

Signs of theft
Some of the most common signs of anhydrous ammonia theft include:
- Partially opened tank valves and/ or leaking tanks
- Vehicle tracks or footprints in the mud or snow
- Disturbed ground near tanks
- A circular pattern left in the mud or snow near the tank, where barbecue propane tanks may have been set to fill from the supply
- Items left behind after the theft may include buckets, coolers, duct tape, garden hoses, bicycle inner tubes and barbecue propane tanks
- Discarded barbecue propane tanks may be a sign of attempted theft or tampering

Plastic valve covers and ties offer a quick visual clue to tampering.

A key goal of this program is to promote cooperation between farmers, agriretailers, law enforcement and government to prevent the illegal use of legitimate products.

Produced in cooperation with the Canadian Association of Agriretailers (CAAR)