



Meth & Tourism

The East Lewis County Chamber is being proactive in dealing with community social issues that ultimately could prevent tourists from wanting to come to the area (or wanting to return again). Specifically, we are working with numerous organizations, agencies, and grassroots volunteers on education and activism to reduce the problem of methamphetamine in East County. While this may not be a traditional role for tourism- or business-related organizations, our perspective is that ignoring the problem or leaving it to someone else to solve is not going to get our communities to a “clean” and “safe” status very fast.

The number one cause of crime in Lewis County and throughout Southwest Washington is methamphetamine. Crimes against people and property by meth users and dealers, as well as the environmental hazards, threaten the perception of the area as a quiet, peaceful, bucolic place to visit and to safely participate in recreation activities. This and the fact that Lewis County is rated 10th in the state for meth incidents reported to the Dept. of Ecology could hamper tourism unless it is clear to potential visitors that something is being done about the problem. While larger, urban cities may not find their tourism potential so greatly affected by their drug and crime problems, tourists to rural areas likely have expectations for a safer environment. Part of the ELCCC’s mission is to work on meeting that expectation through ongoing, collaborative efforts to reduce such crimes.

We hope that concerned citizens, organizations, owners of lodging and other tourism facilities, and other business people share the desire to provide a SAFE and HEALTHY environment for tourists to visit. **We hope you will join us in our mission to “Get the Meth OUT of East Lewis County”.**

Our Meth Working Group is accepting volunteers and we are providing training based on the Washington State Meth Watch Program. Please contact the Chamber at director@eastlewiscountychamber.com and visit www.eastlewiscountychamber.com for more information.



Motel Managers: Are Meth Cooks Taking Advantage Of Your Hospitality?

Clandestine labs can be set up anywhere - from a farm field to an apartment; a storage unit to a car trunk; yes, even a motel room.

Renting a room offers anonymity to Meth manufacturers that they may not have in their homes and more comfort than they'll find in the woods or fields.

A guest who cooks up a batch of Meth in a motel room risks employees' and other guests' health and safety. Everyone is threatened with the danger of explosions, fire, chemical spills and hazardous fumes.

Even after the Meth manufacturer checks out, a threat lingers in the motel, just as it does in homes that served as Meth labs. (See information online (web address at end) regarding [Toxicity](#) and [Cleaning Methods](#)).

When drug criminals operate out of motel property, owners pay a high price, including property damage; lost revenue; negative publicity; employee turnover and any litigation costs. Plus, motel owners are responsible for decontamination costs - which may average over \$7,500 per room.

If you manage or own a motel, learn the steps you can take to reduce the risks posed by Meth manufacturing on your property.

For more information, or to schedule a training session for your staff, please contact the East Lewis County Chamber of Commerce at 360-751-0369 or director@eastlewiscountychamber.com

Some of the above information is from <http://www.mapps.org/Motel%20Overview.htm> (Meth Awareness & Prevention Project)