

# Frequently Asked Questions - Hygienists and Contractors

## 1. How do I become a certified methamphetamine cleanup contractor?

If you or your company wishes to be considered for inclusion on the Commissioner's lists for CML Cleanup Contractor and/or CML Hygienists, please submit a Statement of Qualification (SOQ) that describes and outlines any previous experience in cleaning up CMLs and hazardous waste decontamination. Please note that a CML Hygienist must meet additional qualifications (**e.g. - a baccalaureate degree from an accredited university in science or engineering**) as described in TCA 62-40-101 for Industrial Hygienists. Additionally, please provide current training certificates that are applicable to this type of decontamination activity. At a minimum you or your company should have individuals that are and have:

- **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 40-hour HAZWOPER Training:** - This course meets the training requirements of the HAZWOPER regulation, 29 CFR 1910.120(e)(3)(i).
- **3-day TDEC approved CML Cleanup Contractor training or its equivalent:** - The required 3-day certification course provides information on property assessment, decontamination techniques, and work plan development.
- **40-hours of HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE** in the field of decontamination of hazardous materials (hazardous wastes, biohazards, asbestos, mold, etc.).

**Send SOQ To:**

**Attn: Brad J. Parman,  
CML Cleanup Program Coordinator  
TDEC, Division of Remediation  
2700 Middlebrook Pike Suite 220  
Knoxville, TN 37921  
(865) 594-2799**

## 2. What is difference between a CML cleanup contractor and a CML Hygienist?

A cleanup contractor is certified as a company. The company retains one or more employees who are trained to supervise CML cleanups. These individuals do not need a baccalaureate degree to supervise. Other employees may work on CML cleanups under their supervision without a formal training course. However, all OSHA training requirements still apply. It is the responsibility of the cleanup contractor and supervisor to be familiar with these requirements and to ensure compliance with them.

A CML Hygienist is certified as an individual. A baccalaureate degree such as is described in TCA 62-40-101 is required to be a CML Hygienist. The CML Hygienist must also have some experience in decontamination, have taken a CML training course and have HAZWOPER certification.

After a CML cleanup has been accomplished, a CML Hygienist tests the property and ensures that a proper investigation and cleanup has been done. The CML Hygienist then compiles the documentation package for the property owner and writes the Certification of Fitness.

## 3. What information should go into my Statement of Qualification (SOQ)?

Your SOQ should include the qualifications and training of the personnel who will be cleaning CML sites. Remember that a CML cleanup is often too big and too dangerous a job for one person to do alone. At a minimum someone from the company should have taken the supervisor level CML training course. Of course, a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) credential is more than an adequate substitute (Please include American Board of Industrial Hygiene certification number).

Explain your business plan from the standpoint of who will supervise cleanups, who will do testing, who will keep track of each person's training/credentials.

Document your company's experience with environmental cleanups (hazardous wastes, biohazards, asbestos, mold, etc.).

Please also include the contact information as you would like yourself or your company listed on the website.

#### **4. Must I have a college degree?**

A degree is not required to become a cleanup contractor or supervisor. However, to become a CML hygienist and do testing and certification, one must have the basic educational foundation cited in TCA 62-40-101. The combination of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university in one of the courses of study cited and a supervisor level training course is sufficient basis to become a CML hygienist.

#### **5. What is a CML Hygienist?**

A CML hygienist tests methamphetamine-affected properties to see if remediation is necessary before a cleanup is initiated (such as at properties which are not quarantined but methamphetamine activity is suspected) or whether remediation is complete after a property has been cleaned. A CML Hygienist also collects all documentation related to a CML cleanup and prepares a documentation package and Certification of Cleanliness.

To become certified, one must have the basic educational foundation cited in TCA 62-40-101. The combination of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university in one of the courses of study cited and completing a supervisor level training course is sufficient basis to become a CML hygienist.

A Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) by training, education, and statute is able to perform all CML Hygienist services (testing and certification) and may supervise cleanup.

#### **6. Who do I contact for training?**

The University of Tennessee Center For Industrial Services holds classes on the cleanup of methamphetamine-affected properties. The telephone number is 1-800-424-3905. Other training may be considered equivalent. This would be decided on a case-by-case basis.

#### **7. I am a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH). How do I get listed on your website?**

Please send an SOQ to the Division of Remediation at the address below. Please include your ABIH certification number, your contact information as you want it listed on the website, and email address if you would like that listed as well.

A CIH has all the qualifications and statutory authority to clean, test, and certify clean any CML. However, even a person with CIH credentials may want to take a training course in methamphetamine cleanup for the sake of becoming familiar with the particular hazards at former methamphetamine laboratories. Send SOQ to Brad Parman (contact information in #1)

#### **8. What is HAZWOPER?**

This is the OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response course ([1910.120\(a\)\(1\)\(i-v\)](#) and [1926.65\(a\)\(1\)\(i-v\)](#)). It is a 40-hour course teaching the concepts of personal protective equipment, chemical hygiene, respirator usage, chemical toxicity, and many other concepts important to people who work with hazardous wastes. This course is an OSHA requirement for people working on methamphetamine laboratories or in any hazardous waste environment. Because mastering the above-mentioned concepts is critical for understanding the concepts in CML training, HAZWOPER is also a prerequisite for the methamphetamine cleanup class held by the University of Tennessee.

If one has training similar to the HAZWOPER but cannot complete a HAZWOPER training course prior to the CML contractor course, admission is at the discretion of the instructor. It would be unfair to the class and to the pupil to have to repeat prerequisite concepts.