



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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## **NOV. 30<sup>TH</sup> IS NATIONAL METHAMPHETAMINE AWARENESS DAY County Officials Urge Residents to Get Help and Report Crime at Meth Hotline (877) NO2-METH or WWW.No2Meth.Org**

November 30<sup>th</sup> is National Methamphetamine Awareness Day and San Diego County officials are urging residents dealing with a meth-related problem to call the County's Meth Hotline **(877) NO2-METH** (662-6384) or visit its website [www.No2Meth.org](http://www.No2Meth.org) to get the help they need.

"Meth is a powerful and dangerous drug. I encourage anyone battling this deadly addiction to seek help by calling the Meth Hotline," said San Diego County Supervisor Dianne Jacob, who 10 years ago spearheaded the formation of the County's Methamphetamine Strike Force. "At the hotline and website, people can access information on treatment and can report criminal activity." All the information provided is confidential.

Composed of approximately 70 member organizations and agencies—including local, state, and federal representatives from public health, law enforcement, judiciary, education, treatment, prevention, and intervention agencies—the Meth Strike Force was established to address meth-related problems throughout the region.

Since its creation, the Meth Strike Force has produced measurable results, focusing its efforts on eradicating meth labs, controlling the sale of chemicals used to make meth, saving children from meth-infested environments, and referring people to treatment for meth-related problems.

"The Strike Force takes a comprehensive approach to this problem," said Jean M. Shepard, Tri-Chair of the Meth Strike Force and Director of the County's Health and Human Services Agency. "We're attacking the meth problem through prevention, intervention, treatment, and interdiction."

National Methamphetamine Awareness Day was established by President George W. Bush to underscore the dangers of meth and the effects the drug is having in families and communities. Meth is a powerful central nervous system stimulant that is highly addictive and can cause heart palpitations, nausea, damage to blood vessels in the brain, shortness of breath, mental confusion, malnutrition, anorexia, severe anxiety and depression.

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