

DANGER!

If you suspect a grow house in your area.....

DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH A MARIJUANA GROW HOUSE

- The marijuana that is produced is shipped to the U.S. and returns as laundered cash, guns, heroin and ecstasy.
- Alterations made to a grow house may make the house uninhabitable for future residents without major repairs.
- There is a risk of violence and residual crime in neighbourhoods linked with this illegal activity.
- Theft of electricity leads to higher utility bills for ALL paying customers.
- Grow houses are 40 times more likely to have fires than normal homes.
- Shock and electrocution hazards can be created by illegal electrical bypasses charging the ground.
- Emergency responders are exposed to hazardous conditions.
- Grow houses may be "booby-trapped" to injure or kill trespassers and emergency service workers.
- Health hazards associated with marijuana grow houses are caused by mould, mildew, and chemicals that are used in plant growth. These can result in respiratory problems and allergies.
- High levels of humidity can cause wood to eventually warp, including staircases, floor finishes, roof joists.
- As many as 10,000 children may have been in Ontario grow homes between 2000 and 2003.

If you suspect there is a grow house operation or theft of hydro in your neighbourhood, it is important that you contact the Toronto Police



**TORONTO POLICE SERVICE
42 Division Major Crime Unit**

416-808-4206

or



CRIME STOPPERS

1-800-222-TIPS (8477)

Crime Stoppers is a non-profit program, relying on cooperation between the public, police, and media.

Your call to Crime Stoppers will NOT be traced or recorded. You will NOT have to testify in court. No one will know who you are. You will be assigned a number for identification.

CASH REWARDS



**MARIJUANA
GROW
HOUSE
OPERATIONS**

What You Need To Know



42 Division

SPOTTING A MARIJUANA GROW HOUSE

What is a Marijuana Grow House

A marijuana grow house is a home which has been physically altered in order to produce marijuana. These alterations may include tapping into the hydro lines in order to steal electricity, attaching filtering devices to hide the skunky-scent produced by marijuana plants or installing high wattage lights which can be a fire hazard.

Typically, large scale sophisticated marijuana grow houses are linked to organized crime. Organized crime rings purchase or rent a home and buy the equipment required to grow the marijuana. The harvested marijuana is then sold on the streets with the profit going back into the criminal organization.

A grow operation can generate considerable tax-free cash which is then used to finance various organized criminal activities.

Marijuana grow houses can be located in any rural, urban, or industrial area.

From 2000 to 2003, these illegal operations cost the Ontario economy upwards of \$260 million.

How does a Marijuana Grow House affect me?

A typical grow house steals between \$1,500 - \$2,000 worth of hydro each month. One hydro company estimates customers pay an additional \$50.00 on their monthly hydro bill to cover these costs!

We also pay increased insurance premiums as a result of fire related costs and repairs due to structural damages.



- ✓ The house does not appear "lived in". Someone occasionally attends the residence and only stays for short periods of time.
- ✓ Activity inside the house seems to take place at odd hours. Items are moved in and out of the residence at odd times.
- ✓ The exterior appearance of the property is not cared for on a regular basis (ie. snow removal, grass cutting)
- ✓ Persons often back into the garage and enter the home this way.
- ✓ Garbage is minimal and may contain used soil and plant material.
- ✓ Windows are covered.
- ✓ Bright light can be seen escaping from windows. Windows are often covered with condensation.
- ✓ Sounds of interior construction may be heard.
- ✓ Timers may be set inside the residence.
- ✓ Marijuana homes can produce a strong skunk-like odour.
- ✓ Items being brought into the house include soil planters, fans, large lights.
- ✓ Garbage bags are being taken out of the home and transported away.
- ✓ A grow house may not have snow on the roof when other homes in the area will.
- ✓ Unusual amounts of steam from vents.