**Entering Grow Ops**

**Background:**

Bylaw Enforcement Officers are frequently required to attend illegal marijuana grow operations at the request of the RCMP. Attendance occurs after the RCMP have secured the premises. Bylaw Enforcement Officers are often accompanied by city building inspectors for the purpose of detecting illegal building alterations. There is the ever present danger of harmful spores from cannabis, mould and other chemicals use in the production of marijuana. These harmful spores can be easily ingested as a result of prolonged exposure.

These procedures are to be followed prior to and during an inspection of a premises containing a grow op.

 **Hazards:**

* + Mould can be present and may become airborne when disturbed. This in turn may cause illness in the lungs and body.
	+ Strong odour of marijuana may be present which can affect people with respiratory problems
	+ Rodent, bird and animal feces can pose health risks to workers when they become dry and turn into airborne dust. Various health maladies including Hanta Virus can be contracted.
1. **Pre set-up:**
	* Upon arriving at grow op location, have appropriate PPE available
	* Check with investigating officer to ensure that it is safe to enter building. Ask investigating officer which areas are off limits.
2. **Post Procedure:**
	* Follow prescribed decontamination procedure. Double bag waste (Rubber gloves, Tyvex suit and booties)
3. **Summary:**
* Wear PPE if required. PPE is available at all times for employees well being. Even if these procedures do not prompt you to wear PPE, it is your right to wear it
* You have the right to refuse unsafe work. If the conditions cannot be deemed safe, do not enter the premises