

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Meth Strike Force begins campaign to Stop Meth Associated Crimes

### Meth-fueled identity theft can be prevented with help from business, law enforcement and the public

**Who** The San Diego County Methamphetamine Strike Force.

**What** Press conference to announce Stop Meth-Associated Crimes (SMAC), a multifaceted campaign to combat identity theft in San Diego County. The overall campaign will begin with formal training for local hotels and motels.

**Where** Press conference / hotel and motel personnel training to be held at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina, 1380 Harbor Island Drive in San Diego. (Penthouse Floor)

**When** September 28, 2005 at 12:30 p.m.

**Why** The growing connection between methamphetamine and identity theft poses a clear danger to both the public and the business community.

In the last three years, cases involving methamphetamine and identity theft have jumped 35 percent, according to the San Diego County District Attorney's Office.

An informal survey of District Attorney investigators and law enforcement officers indicates that at least 75 percent of suspects in local I.D. theft cases showed evidence of methamphetamine abuse.

**Note:** *These figures are considered low. In many identity theft, fraud and forgery cases, the evidence of meth influence doesn't rise to the level of a chargeable offense, according to prosecutors.*

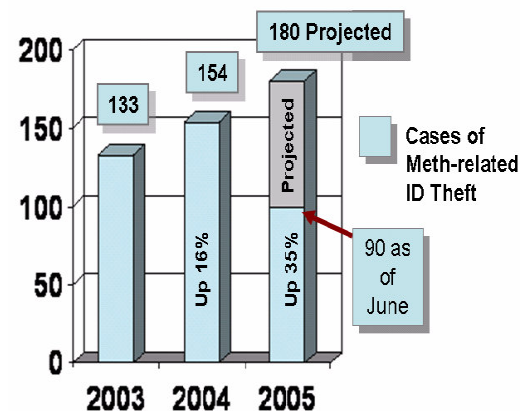
**Goals** To address this issue, the San Diego County Methamphetamine Strike Force intends to:

- Increase public awareness of harm associated with meth use;
- Promote new policy and management tools for business that have high volume of customer credit card paperwork;
- Increase standardized reporting of cases related to both Meth and identity theft.

#### Speakers

- San Diego County Supervisors **Dianne Jacob** and **Greg Cox**
- **Damon Mosler**, chief of the San Diego County District Attorney's Narcotics Division.
- **Robert A. Rauch**, president of The San Diego County Hotel-Motel Association, general manager and partner of the Homewood Suites by Hilton, San Diego-Del Mar.
- **Jay Foley**, co-executive director of the San Diego-based Identity Theft Resource Center

#### Meth-Related Identity thefts up by 35% in San Diego County



Map to press conference: Press conference / hotel and motel personnel training to be held at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina, 1380 Harbor Island Drive in San Diego. (Penthouse Floor)

