



**CONCLUDED
PROBLEM REPORT
PS-1**

Problem ID : 62

Reporting Division :NORTH

District:

Neighbourhood : KENNEDALE

Address : 12818 - 56 STREET

Reg	Rank	Last Name	First Name
1345	CST	DITTRICH	D
1831	CST	MANDRUSIAK	BRAD

Key Description : CLANDESTINE CHEMICAL LABORATORY

Problem Description:

This file was primarily a very complex, criminal investigation. However, it arose out of a long-standing community problem that other government authorities had failed to resolve despite their best efforts. It is an excellent example of how police can act as an umbrella organization to coordinate the efforts of others and bring about successful conclusions.

In October of 1994, the Fire Department responded to a fenced compound at 12819 - 56 Street to extinguish a small fire. Other workers from the neighbourhood had responded previously when the occupant, John MALINSKI (59 years) had set his clothing and footwear on fire while working with some chemicals. What Emergency Response found when they arrived was essentially a fenced "fortress" with carded and delapidated out buildings, there were used to house a plethora of toxic and volatile chemicals and associated reaction apparatus. Alberta Environment Dangerous Goods, independent disposal contractors, etc. were called in and the multi-week clean up nearly reached a cost of \$100,000.

Police became involved when it was concluded that this was likely a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory. However, forensic experts were ultimately unable to establish this hypothesis and the drug investigation was concluded. The various environmental agencies reassumed the file that resulted in various control and access orders being served against Mr. MALINSKI. With no charges of any description forthcoming, all seized items were eventually returned to the proprietor.

In August of 1995, neighbouring residents again reported unusual circumstances. An ominous dense, white cloud had formed over the fenced compound. Mr. MALINSKI was reluctant to grant access to Emergency Response but it was accomplished under the Safety Codes Act. It had clearly been another chemical experiment gone terribly astray. The same authorities now witnessed an expansion of the operation they had dealt with the year before. There could be no escaping that there was a potentially lethal, hazardous laboratory operating amid unsuspecting neighbours and the problem could no longer be ignored.

Problem solving strategies and results :

Det. Dittrich and Cst. Mandrusiak assumed coordinating responsibility of the file the day following the most recent incident. A very detailed and complex investigation has since resulted in a criminal charge of Common Nuisance being laid against Mr. MALINSKI that remains before the court. This outline concerns itself more with the fact that this long-standing problem situation was brought to a halt.

Neighbouring residents indicated the MALINSKI lab took shape steadily over a course of years. It began with the purchase of an old abandoned house on an oversized city lot. Eventually, a ten foot solid steel fence with a reinforced gate prevented any view of the interior grounds. Mr MALINSKI became known as the neighbourhood eccentric with his mysterious comings and goings at all hours of the night. Area residents had become accustomed to occasional clouds of smoke, colorful gaseous clouds and strange noises.

Investigators had to work closely with Alberta Environmental Protection. The majority of the infractions violate legislation under their jurisdiction. Consultants to AEP provided the expertise to conduct this investigation in safety and

to lend a hand in interpreting the installation. Emergency Response and their Dangerous Goods Team dealt with the Safety Codes ACT, primarily do unsafe and incompatible storage of chemicals. An independent, private company was responsible for the clean up and storage of these unsafe substances. A multitude of City departments were involved also, eg Zoning department had concerns over the laction. Mr. MALINSKI claimed he was running a business that did not sit well with licensing. Water and Sanitation used robotics to document the damage done to the drainage system downstream from this outlet. The University of Alberta Science Department had unknowingly supplied a good portion of the chemicals on site. Great collaborative efforts had to be employed to meet with and coordinate the efforts of all these agencies. The lack of success from the 1994 effort clearly revealed that a cohesive approach does not happen by chance.

As of late 1995, there no longer exists a chemical installation at 12819-56 Street. The site has been purged of all noxious substances and utilities of any description are suspended. We perhaps will never know what the site was truly used for, or what noxious or lethal compounds may have been released into the air, the ground or the water. Mr. MALINSKI, to this date, has maintained his silence. What is important is that through a combined and determined effort, a solution was found to this problem.