

New meth ingredient easier to obtain
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GIBSON CO. , IN (WFIE) - Meth makers are using a new method to cook up their drug. They're substituting anhydrous ammonia with an over the counter product.

Anhydrous ammonia, once the key ingredient used to make meth, has now been replaced by ammonium nitrate, the same ingredients found in an instant cold pack.

"Anhydrous is a problem for meth makers for two reasons," Gibson County Prosecutor Robert Krieg said. "One, it's hard to get, and two, when you use it, it puts off such a strong smell that it almost leads a trail to the person who is making it."

Ammonium nitrate is odorless, and it's accessible. You can find it on the shelves of any local store.

"For the people who are mixing it, and anyone that is around it, it's very, very volatile, and we've had a trailer here in Princeton burn down because it was mixed wrong," Krieg said.

To stop more of these cases from crossing his desk, Krieg sent letters to stores requesting managers take these instant cold packs off the shelves and place them behind the counter, or at least monitor who's purchasing them.

"If somebody's coming in and buying a whole box of these things for no reason, that oughta tip you off that something's going on," Krieg said. "You can help us by alerting us and we can go from there."

Gibson County Sheriff Allen Harmon said help from the community will lighten their load, and hopefully everyone's

participation will eventually end meth making in Gibson County .

"Anytime we can make it harder for them to cook the dope or make it to where it's not quite as good, we're all for that," Harmon said.