



Colorado Campaign for Safe Access

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COLORADO CAMPAIGN FOR SAFE ACCESS'

EMERGENCY RESPONSE HANDBOOK: RESPONDING TO A DEA RAID

WHAT CAN I DO?

- 1. ORGANIZE YOUR LISTS:** The first step is to make an emergency contact list of all activists who are now committed to defending patients' access into an emergency response network. Set up a listserv of all the email addresses you have, a phone tree, and a short list of press calls, politicians, and other ally organizations you would want to contact if a raid happens. Make sure the Colorado Campaign for Safe Access has 2 key contact phone numbers in order to alert you, and send to info@sensiblecolorado.org.
- 2. JOIN THE CCSA LIST:** If you haven't done so yet, send an email to info@sensiblecolorado.org to receive alerts and organizing updates.
- 3. GET YOUR MATERIALS:** Download the CCSA's Organizer's manual and other resources from <http://www.safeaccesscolorado.org/>. Print out and copy the "Pledge of Resistance" to collect signatures or request a stack of Pledge cards by mail.
- 4. HAVE A MEETING:** Invite all those charming and interesting activists from other organizations that you've always wanted to know to join a medical marijuana organization or start a local CCSA chapter. Plan your Emergency Response action. Decide who will activate the phone tree, do media calls, etc the day of the raid. Arrange a meeting place and time for the evening you hear of a DEA raid to do last minute planning.
- 5. BE CREATIVE!** What scenario do you think would get the most attention? What can you do even better than the last time to make your action interesting and inspiring? What materials and props and puppets and street theatre would you like to have prepared? A giant Mt. Rushmore type puppet of John Walters, George Bush, Cheney and Rove? A circle of people blockading the front doors? Some 'gardening' in front of the federal building? A banner tied on a busy overpass? Your imagination's the limit for smart, visual, clear actions!
- 6. BUILD ALLIANCES:** Figure out who your natural allies are, and visit them. Ask for their support and involvement, and find out what they would like your support in doing. We need to broaden our base, from the patients and the cannabis and drug policy reform movement, to the medical community, social justice and human rights movements, and so forth.
- 7. PREPARE YOUR MEDIA:** Make your press lists now, line up your spokespeople, and get a media working group in place. Print out and adapt the sample press release to your local situation. Be prepared to make your own media as well.
- 8. PLAN OTHER ACTIVITIES:** Once your emergency response plan is in place, plan other activities for your medical marijuana campaign. Do tabling, preferably in pairs, at other events. Collect signatures for petition drives, get supporters to write a letter or call in if you are working at passing a city or state resolution, collect Pledge signers, & invite others to your meetings. Consider setting up an educational forum or debate. Keep active, and your group will draw in more energy.



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9. TAKE ACTION: Through the emergency response listserv, we will notify folks of DEA raids as soon as they happen. To keep the pressure on, we need to respond to these raids FAST. We encourage sustained resistance to these events as they unfold through creative non-violent tactics. From phone calls to sit-ins to spontaneous street theater, we'll work to support your local action planning with a national network of assistance and support. E-mail info@sensiblecolorado.org, or call **(800) 418-3352** for anything else you may need to make this a successful action.