

On Thursday January 24th, 2013, Detectives from the Watauga County Sheriff's Office Special Operations Unit discovered numerous remnants of several clandestine methamphetamine laboratories at a home in Vilas, NC. Detectives were investigating the report of a possible methamphetamine laboratory located at 1297 NC 194 South Vilas, NC when officers found items lying in the yard. These items were consistent with the "Shake and Bake" method of manufacturing methamphetamine and items were also found in two different burn piles where the suspects were attempting to destroy any evidence of the crime. Detectives secured and served a search warrant on the residence and found other items inside the trailer that were also consistent with the manufacture of methamphetamine.

The suspect, Charles Kevin Baird, 44, of the residence was arrested and charged with manufacturing methamphetamine. Besides Baird living in the home, there was also an elderly family member as well as two small children under the age of five. Baird is currently being held in the Watauga County Jail on a \$100,000.00 bond.

Found outside the home, along the creek banks, as well as in the yard were five hydrogen chloride (HCL) gas generators which prove there were at least five different clandestine methamphetamine laboratories at the residence at one time or another, although these generators are normally used more than once.