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# Appendix V

## Safety Tips for Approaching a Tweaker<sup>\*</sup>

- Keep a social distance — preferably a 7- to 10-foot radius. Once a person has been identified as a potential tweaker, law enforcement officers should call for backup. Detaining a tweaker alone is not recommended.
- Do not shine bright lights at him. The tweaker is already paranoid, and if he is blinded by a bright light, the tweaker is likely to run or become violent.
- Slow your speech and lower the pitch of your voice. A tweaker already hears sounds at a fast pace and in a high pitch, and a side effect of the drug is a constant electrical buzzing sound in the background.
- Slow your movements. This will decrease the odds that the tweaker will misinterpret your physical actions.
- Keep your hands visible. Because the tweaker is already paranoid, if you place your hands where he cannot see them, he might feel threatened and could become violent.
- Keep the tweaker talking. A tweaker who falls silent can be extremely dangerous. Silence often means that his paranoid thoughts have taken over reality, and anyone on the scene can become part of the tweaker's paranoid delusions.

<sup>\*</sup> Source: U.S. Department of Justice (1999). Training and Technical Support for Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement Programs. Office of Justice Programs, Washington, D.C.