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Brief

Criminal Indices Check

Situational Awareness

Request for Information

“Bath Salts” Receive Emergency Drug Scheduling

INTRODUCTION / OVERVIEW

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) is providing the following situational awareness brief addressing new psychoactive substances that are being marketed as “bath salts.” These “bath salts” are among the latest in a series of currently legal synthetic substances that, when used improperly, offer alternatives to illegal drugs. Suspected as being produced as legal substitutes for ecstasy, cocaine, and amphetamines, “bath salts” are powerful stimulant drugs that are suspected to have been designed to avoid legal prosecution, and are commonly available on the Internet, specialty “smoke” shops, and convenience stores. “Bath salts” can be comprised of different unregulated chemical substances and are being sold under a variety of names or brands. Both the law enforcement community and medical professionals indicate that “bath salts” are becoming increasingly popular due to the perception that they pose a seemingly safer alternative to illegal methods of getting “high” and can easily be obtained.



Photo Source: Gulf Coast HIDTA

STREET NAMES

The following is a sample of designer “bath salt” products associated with unregulated psychoactive substances that are potentially harmful:

- Ivory Wave
- Vanilla Sky
- Pure Ivory
- Whack
- Bolivian Bath
- Sextacy
- Gloom
- Purple Rain
- Hurricane Charlie
- Fly
- Purple Wave
- Charge+
- Ocean Burst
- Crush
- White Rush

TOXICITY & SIDE EFFECTS

“Bath salt” products are known to produce certain side effects, some of which are quite severe. The following is the list of milder, short-term side effects associated with consumption of this drug as reported by medical personnel:

- Increased heart rate
- Agitation
- Diminished requirement for sleep
- Lack of appetite
- Increased alertness and awareness
- Anxiety
- Fits and delusions
- Nosebleeds

More serious side effects associated with these drugs reportedly include:

- Muscle spasms
- Blood circulation problems, including increased blood pressure
- Kidney failure
- Seizures
- Risk of renal failure
- Hallucinations
- Aggression
- Severe paranoia
- Panic attacks
- Sharp increase in body temperature

In most extreme cases, powdered “bath salt” products have been linked to self-mutilation and drug induced deaths to include an increased risk of suicide.

THE FLORIDA CONNECTION

On January 26, 2011, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi deemed “bath salts” to be a significant threat to health and public safety within the State of Florida. By delegation of authority granted under Chapter 893.035(7)(a), Florida Statute, Attorney General Bondi placed these chemicals found in “bath salts” as emergency Schedule I drugs in which the purchase, possession, sale, and/or distribution can result in a felony arrest.

Retailers and those in possession of psychoactive “bath salts” who require assistance in their lawful disposal are asked to contact their local law enforcement agencies for assistance. Failure to comply with this emergency order can result in a felony arrest as punishable under 775.082, F.S.



Photo Source: Gulf Coast HIDTA

The law enforcement community, as well as health care providers, can confirm the presence of the following chemicals contained within “bath salts” which will produce the above psychoactive effects:

- 3,4 - Methylenedioxyamfetamine (Mephedrone)
- 3,4 - Methylenedioxypropylamphetamine (MDPV)
- 4 - Methylmethcathinone (Mephedrone)
- 3 - Methoxymethcathinone
- 3 - Fluoromethcathinone
- 4 - Fluoromethcathinone

It should be noted that the Florida Department of Health has reported numerous health-related calls to both the Florida Poison Control Center (FPCC) and emergency rooms concerning the use of “bath salts.” The FPCC has received several calls regarding exposure to this product with the majority of these calls being placed by individuals 16 to 30 years of age. As an example, during the weekend of January 21-22, 2011, a north Florida emergency room physician reported to FDLE an excess of six emergency related patients admitted due to both the ingestion and injection of “bath salts.”

If you would like more information about this intelligence brief, or if you have information that you would like posted in a bulletin, please contact the Florida Department of Law Enforcement at (850) 410-7645.

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