



For Immediate Release: Drug Warning
June 27, 2011

BATH SALTS BOTH LETHAL and ILLEGAL

Effective May 26, 2011, possession and/or distribution of chemically manufactured (synthetic) cathinones are prohibited in the State of Kansas. This legislation specifically targets those substances commonly marketed as “bath salts.” The Kansas Legislature passed a law that classifies these particular substances as Schedule I narcotics, which means there is no legitimate medical use for these particular substances.

The use and abuse of synthetic drugs is on the rise across the country. The consequences of ingesting chemically manufactured or altered drugs can be unpredictable, catastrophic and even deadly. Individuals who have used “bath salts” reported the following effects: chest pains, increased blood pressure and/or heart rate, hallucinations, extreme paranoia, agitation, delusions, and even suicide. In at least one documented case in Kansas, a young man’s death was directly linked to the use of a synthetic stimulant. Research shows that *these* synthetic drugs can be as addictive as cocaine and methamphetamine.

Although marked as “not for human consumption” to circumvent requirements under the federal Controlled Substances Act, the manufacturers of these synthetic stimulants are clearly intending the drugs be ingested. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved these substances for human consumption. With names like “*Purple Wave*”, “*Blue Magic*”, “*Red Dove*”, “*Blue Silk*” and “*Vanilla Sky*”, the substances are marketed as “legal smoke blends” or “legal highs”. These drugs are readily available to the public with little regard as to how old the individual buying the product might be. They can be found in retail stores, head shops (stores that sell drug paraphernalia), and even over the Internet. The ease with which a teenager can get his or her hands on this product is quite alarming. ***Parents, educators, and the general public must be aware of the dangerous effects synthetic, designer drugs produce and must be proactive if they suspect someone is using and abusing synthetic substances.***

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