



# STATE OF IOWA

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## Iowa Safety Alert Re: *K2*

Updated July 22, 2010

The Iowa Board of Pharmacy Tuesday adopted emergency rules to ban the sale or possession of the substance commonly referred to as synthetic marijuana and sold under names such as *K2*, *Spice* and *Red Dragon Smoke*. The Board has since filed amended rules—effective today, July 22—to classify these products as Imitation Controlled Substances under Iowa Code Section 124A.

**Effective today,  
the sale or possession of *K2* and similar substances  
is illegal in the State of Iowa.**

The main thrust of the action is to remove new and potentially dangerous substances from store shelves to prevent use by, and harm to, unsuspecting Iowans.

In taking this action, the Pharmacy Board listed four synthetic cannabinoids sprayed on *K2* and similar products as Imitation Controlled Substances in Iowa. These newly banned compounds are known as: HU-211, JWH-073, JWH-018 and CP 47,497. The compound HU-210 is already banned by the federal government.

As stated by the Iowa Pharmacy Board, the substance in question is similar to marijuana, but can be many times more potent. Evidence of related health and safety hazards from smoking *K2* are mounting. The Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center and other centers nationwide report the following effects from using *K2*: anxiety, panic attacks, agitation, elevated blood pressure, rapid heart rate or respiration, vomiting, hallucinations and seizures.

The Iowa Legislature is expected to consider taking formal action to ban *K2* and similar products when it convenes next year. Until then, the Pharmacy Board's emergency action carries the full weight of Iowa law, with violators subject to criminal prosecution.

Even with the emergency ban, there is a continuing need to educate Iowans about the potential dangers of these new products along with other substances of abuse. For more information on *K2*, go to [www.iowa.gov/odcp](http://www.iowa.gov/odcp).

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