



DRUG ALERT

IOWA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL POLICY

FEBRUARY 18, 2014—SYNTHETIC DRUG ALERT

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DES MOINES – A new synthetic drug compound has been identified as being involved in three separate deaths of young Iowans, according to authorities. The Iowa Poison Control Center says the three deaths occurred in 2013, and were recently reported as involving the new synthetic cannabinoid known as 5F-PB-22.

“This tragic news demonstrates once again the degree to which these quick-changing products are unsafe, and the importance of educating our youth about their dangers,” said Steve Lukan, Director of the Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy.

“Even though state and federal officials have strengthened laws to protect Iowans from dozens of different synthetic drug types, makers of these poisonous products keep skirting the law,” said Lukan. “For now the best defense against synthetic drugs is prevention, which means parents talking with children and other forms of education to help young Iowans make safe choices.”

One week ago, the DEA took emergency action to temporarily ban four new synthetic cannabinoids, including the 5F-PB-22 compound, at the federal level. The DEA is also

expected to act soon to temporarily ban an additional ten new synthetic cathinones federally. The Board of Pharmacy is working with state officials to follow suit in Iowa.

“We will continue using all available means to protect Iowans from these elusive drugs and their dealers,” said Lukan. “The important message for young Iowans is that even though some new synthetic drug products may still be sold by a few stores, the contents of those packages can be very dangerous, and even deadly.”

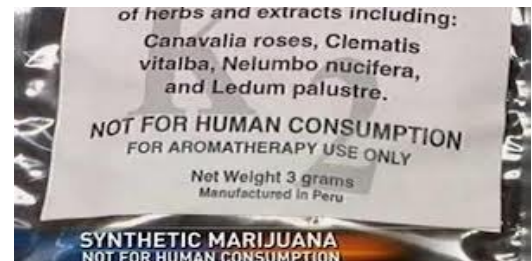
SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Synthetic Drug Alert
- Synthetic Drug Packaging
- Synthetic Drug Use—Symptoms & Identifiers
- Synthetic Drugs—The Threat is Real

IMPORTANT LINKS:

- Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center
www.drugfreeinfo.org
- ODCP
www.iowa.gov/odcp
- Iowa Poison Control Center
www.iowapoinson.org
- Drug Enforcement Administration
www.justice.gov/dea

SYNTHETIC DRUG PACKAGING



SYNTHETIC DRUG USE—SYMPTOMS AND IDENTIFIERS

These people are at risk of dying.

Here are some important guidelines and identifiers:

Guidelines:

By calling **800-222-1222** you will be routed to your local poison control center. They will advise if a person needs to go to the hospital for treatment.

Don't leave a person who is experiencing symptoms alone. Symptoms can include rapid heart rate, agitation, vomiting, confusion, extreme anxiety, paranoia, hallucinations, seizures, and suicidal thoughts and/or actions. These symptoms can continue for hours, days, or longer.

In case of emergency, call 911.

Identifiers:

Rolling papers or marijuana paraphernalia such as pipes or bongs

Small packages that may be labeled as incense, plant food, jewelry cleaner, bath salts, potpourri, etc.

SYNTHETIC DRUGS THE THREAT IS REAL.

Synthetic Cannabinoids are often marketed as “fake weed” or K2 or Spice. These products are typically mixtures of dried plant material sprayed with one or more chemicals. They are often purchased in head shops, gas stations, and over the internet. Regardless of what is on the package, no one knows what these products actually contain.

Synthetic Cathinones are stimulants that are typically marketed as bath salts, plant food, or jewelry cleaner. These products are sold in powder form under various names. They can be snorted, taken orally, smoked, or put into a solution and injected.

Source: Drug Enforcement Administration

These synthetic drugs are labeled “not for human consumption” to mask their intended purpose. Those making and selling these drugs are marketing them as a “legal” high.

The contents and effects of synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones are unpredictable. The variety of chemicals used in them is ever-changing and the manufacturing process has no oversight. Health warnings have been issued by numerous public health authorities and poison control centers.

Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy



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