



Ready to Protect
Proud to Serve

NEWS RELEASE

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ENFORCEMENT PROTOCOL RELATED TO HOUSE BILL 2356 - "BATH SALTS"

This week, the Arizona Legislature enacted **House Bill 2356, which prohibits the sale or possession of synthetic cathinones (stimulants), commonly known as "bath salts"**. With the enactment of HB2356, Arizona joins several other U.S. states in taking legislative action to ban these dangerous substances, which are suspected in a growing number of overdose-related hospitalizations nationwide. HB2356 now includes these substances in the classification of **dangerous drugs** as defined by **Arizona Revised Statute Section 13-3401**. Due to the danger these products pose to public health and safety, HB2356 was **enacted with an emergency clause, making it effective immediately**.

"Bath salts" (occasionally labeled as "plant food") are most commonly sold under various brand names in the form of a powder, tablet, or capsule, and contain synthetic cathinones, a central nervous system stimulant, frequently combined with other laboratory-created compounds. Products containing synthetic cathinones are typically sold at retail smoke or head shops, gas stations, and adult bookstores, as well as through the Internet. Some of the common brand names include: Blue Silk, Cloud Nine, Drone, Energy-1, Stardust, Vanilla Sky, and White Lightning. The products can be inhaled/snorted, ingested, injected, or smoked in order to produce a "high" similar to that of amphetamines. As the short and long-term effects of these chemicals on the body are not known, distributors attempt to skirt the law by labeling them as "not for human consumption", and may include labels indicating that they are for use as plant food, fertilizer, insect repellent, or other uses.

These substances have no legitimate medical use, and medical and poison control professionals have increasingly issued warnings against consuming these products. Users abusing these stimulants have experienced severe adverse effects such as violent vomiting, seizures, suicidal thoughts, elevated body temperature and agitation, sometimes leading to violence similar to what has been seen in the use of PCP. U.S. Poison Control centers have reported a massive increase in the number of bath salts-related calls received, with zero reported cases in 2009, 302 in 2010, and more than 4,000 in 2011.

Distributors have been able to market these products because most synthetic stimulant compounds have not been included under the Federal Controlled Substances Act. This is likely to change as legislation to ban some of these

Page 1 of 4

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

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chemicals is currently being considered. In fact, as of April of 2011, every U.S. state had introduced legislation or announced their intent to introduce legislation to ban certain synthetic cathinones or their compounds.

The Tucson Police Department recognizes the health and safety risks that use of these products poses for our local community, particularly to the youth and young adult demographics that are the most prevalent users of these products. The department stands ready to enforce the law and remains committed to educating the public, including merchants, of the legal requirements associated with HB2356.

Beginning on February 24, 2012, Tucson Police Department officers will be visiting local merchants known or believed to be selling products containing synthetic cathinones or stimulants. The primary goal of this initial site visit will be to educate merchants on the new legislation. Officers will provide the business with a copy of HB2356 and will collect any products that have become contraband under the bill. In recognition of the limited notice that merchants have had as a result of the emergency clause associated with this bill, no enforcement action will take place during this initial site visit. Instead, **merchants will be given the opportunity to voluntarily surrender any and all related contraband without penalty at this time**. To ensure continued compliance with the law, **follow-up site visits will occur** at a later date, at which point **violations will be prosecuted** in accordance with the statute.

Effective immediately, individual possession and/or sale of products containing synthetic cathinones or stimulants are also prohibited under HB2356. Citizens are encouraged to surrender any and all related products to the Tucson Police Department immediately. The department recognizes that citizens may have purchased these products legally prior to the enactment of HB2356. In order to provide a reasonable opportunity for individuals to voluntarily comply with the change in the law, citizens may surrender these items to the department without penalty. Contraband items may be turned in at any of the four substations or at the headquarters building, as well as to any on-duty Tucson Police Department officer.

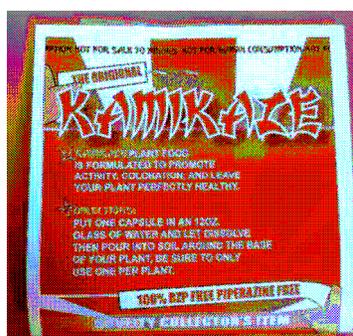
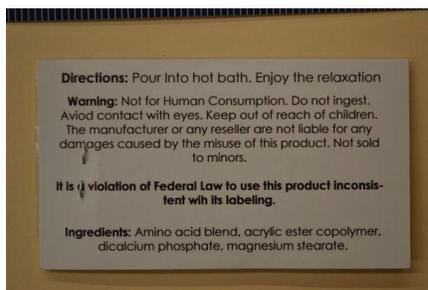
The community is hereby placed on notice that the Tucson Police Department will begin routine enforcement actions on March 2, 2012, and violations under these statutes by individuals and businesses will be investigated and prosecuted as with other violations of the law.

The Tucson Police Department urges anyone with information about violations concerning the sale of products containing synthetic cathinones or stimulants to contact the department through the non-emergency reporting number (520) 791-4444. Additional reporting options include 88-Crime, 911, or the Internet comment form at http://tpdinternet.tucsonaz.gov/Forms/complaint_form.html.



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