

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

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BATH SALTS LATEST DANGEROUS FAD IN CHEAP DRUGS

Okaloosa County Sheriff Larry Ashley and Walton County Sheriff Mike Adkinson are joining with Bay County Sheriff Frank McKeithen in asking local retailers to stop selling a cheap new synthetic drug known on the streets as “bath salts”. In the meantime, the agencies want to warn the community about this latest fad. Despite not being made for human consumption, some users are smoking, swallowing, snorting, or injecting the drug, which can be purchased legally at smoke shops, gas stations, convenience stores and the like.

The chemical name for the psychoactive stimulant is methylenedioxypropylamphetamine (MDPV) and some refer to it as fake cocaine. Bath salts are typically being sold in 500 mg packs and cost around forty dollars. Its nicknames include Super Coke, Cloud 9, Ivory Wave, Boss, and White Lightning.

Law enforcement officers say it is currently legal but can produce violence, delirium, paranoia, hallucinations, and other dangerous psychotic effects. Medical professionals say it can also produce extreme sweating, rapid heart rates, unexplained strength and endurance, severe agitation, suicidal thoughts and cardiovascular collapse.

On January 7, 2011 the Okaloosa Sheriff’s Office responded to a battery call at the Days Inn at 1029 Highway 98 East in Destin when a woman complained she’d been thrown off a bed and beaten after she and her boyfriend got into an argument over bath salts. On January 10th, deputies went to a home on Calhoun Avenue in Destin after a man reported firing shots at an armed person he thought was after him at his home. No evidence of an intruder was found and the individual, who admitted snorting bath salts, was taken to Fort Walton Beach Medical Center. The OCSO has also responded to complaints of bath salt thefts at various businesses. (See attachments). In Bay County, a woman having a severe reaction to bath salts threatened her mother with a machete. Another individual was hospitalized in intensive care for three days after suffering a reaction to snorting bath salts.

“These incidents raise a major red flag and serve as a strong warning as to the potential dangers of these substances,” said Okaloosa Sheriff Larry Ashley. “It is critical that law enforcement work to educate the public about these potentially life-threatening incidents. The sale of these bath salts may be legal at this time, but the rising number of these type incidents indicate that they are clearly being consumed as a dangerous drug and that needs the attention of state lawmakers as well.”

“These substances clearly present a danger to the community if used improperly,” said Walton County Sheriff Michael A. Adkinson, Jr. “We will work with our law enforcement partners and the community to address this issue and to prevent further injuries.”

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