Deputies with the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office today are again delivering letters from Sheriff Larry Ashley to area businesses which sell compounds known as synthetic drugs. The message is that the Florida Attorney General’s Office has adopted an emergency rule outlawing yet another lengthy list of psychoactive substances that are potentially harmful.

Sheriff Ashley is asking business owners and operators to immediately cease and desist the possession, manufacture, distribution, and sale of these compounds and surrender forthwith any such compounds to the Deputy who presented the letter.

At a news conference today also attended by Representative Matt Gaetz, Sheriff Ashley said after the businesses are notified, individuals found to be violating the emergency rule will face arrest and criminal prosecution as well as civil forfeiture actions.
Representative Gaetz said that enacting the emergency rule as law will be one of the Florida Legislature’s top priorities when the general session begins in March.

Sheriff Ashley said the public needs to be aware of the ongoing potentially deadly effects of these synthetic drugs, most of which are being manufactured overseas.

Many of the packages now feature brightly colored cartoon figures and carry names like “Scooby Snax” which the Sheriff called a blatant and alarming effort to market these dangerous substances directly to young people.

Beginning in January of 2011, the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office launched what has become an ongoing campaign to educate the public to the dangers of synthetic drugs, which led to an estimated 11,000 emergency room visits in Florida last year alone.

Law enforcement officers say the substances can cause 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.

Additional background information is attached, including previous news releases on raids, a copy of the Sheriff’s letter to area businesses, and a synopsis of a number of recent synthetic drug related incidents in Okaloosa County.

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The Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

“The Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate”
Effective January 19th, 2011, you will no longer be able to legally sell, purchase, use or possess the synthetic marijuana’s known as “Spice, Black Mamba, K2” among other names in Okaloosa County and across the nation. Although they have been marketed and sold as incense and not for human consumption, its other uses have been obvious. The plant material itself does not provide intoxication, the chemicals that are laced/added to the plant material is what causes the sought after intoxication. Concerns over public safety, health concerns, and reports from poison control centers have prompted the DEA to control the chemicals and substances used to lace the plant material.

The Deputy Administrator of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) filed the final rule Docket No. DEA-331F in the Federal Register on December 20th, 2010 placing substance 5 methoxy-N, N-dimethyltryptamine (5-MeO-DMT), including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers and salts of isomers is possible, into schedule I of the Federal Controlled Substance Act (CSA) imposing the criminal sanctions and regulatory controls of schedule I substances under the CSA on the manufacture, distribution, dispensing, importation, exportation, and possession of 5-MeO-DMT making Federal Law Enforcement action possible as of January 19th, 2011.

Florida law makers are introducing to the Florida House of Representatives House Bill (HB) 39 amending Florida Statutes 893 to include “Homologue” meaning a chemical compound in a series in which each compound differs by one or more alkyl functional groups on an alkyl side chain.

They are also adding these chemicals to the Schedule I controlled substances:

- 2-[(1R,3S)-3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-5-(2-methyloctan-2-106 yl)phenol, also known as CP 47,497 and its dimethyloctyl (C8) 107 homologue. 108
- 6aR,10aR)-9-(hydroxymethyl)-6,6-dimethyl-3-(2-109 methyloctan-2-yl)-6a,7,10,10a-tetrahydrobenzo [c]chromen-1-ol, 110 also known as HU-210.
- 42. 1-Pentyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole, also known as JWH-018.1-Butyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole, also known as JWH-073.

These are the psychotropic chemicals that are added to plant material, sold as incense but marketed as legal marijuana.
Some proprietors have previously stated that they would not sell their products to persons who stated they were making the purchase to smoke it, and not to anyone under the age of 21 as a self-regulating measure. However, if the product was not intended for consumption why would mind altering chemicals (designed for THC research) be added to the organic material, charged $35 a gram and not sold to young people if they knew it was not going to be used for illicit/intoxication purposes? Do other retail stores and businesses have the same costs associated with their products or self imposed restrictions of sales to minors for incense?

The Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office and Okaloosa County Multi-Agency Drug Task Force are committed to enforcing the Florida criminal drug law violations, and assisting the DEA and other agencies in their endeavors as well.

For further information please contact Lieutenant Michael Card of the Okaloosa County Multi-Agency Drug Task Force at 609-2003 or mcard@sheriff-okaloosa.org.

###
March 26, 2012

The Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office, with support from the Drug Enforcement Administration, The United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Niceville Police Department conducted ten simultaneous search warrant raids on specialty shops around Okaloosa County that are selling controlled substances commonly known as “Spice” and “bath salts” as part of their business practice.

Law enforcement officers have purchased substances from multiple businesses in Okaloosa County that have been confirmed by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement as being controlled substances, or analogs of controlled substances as defined in Florida State Statute 893.0356.

Okaloosa County, the State of Florida, and the United States are plagued with specialty shops and internet sites that are selling synthetic cannabinoids, which are designed to mimic tetrahydrocannabinol/THC (THC the primary psychotropic chemical found in marijuana) and synthetic cathinones, which are designed to mimic cocaine, methamphetamine and other controlled stimulants.

In some instances these untested and uncontrolled substances are 500 to 2000 times stronger than the actual illicit substance. Some people that are buying these substances and ingesting them believe that they are legal and safe. However medical professionals are advising otherwise. In Florida, there have been 57 calls to the Poison Control Center this month from health professionals or by people that have ingested synthetic cannabinoids, seeking help.
These businesses and business owners are exploiting loopholes in Federal Regulations and state laws and selling substances marketed as “Plant food, screen cleaner, incense, potpourri” among others, which contain chemically designed psychoactive substances. “Screen Cleaner” is not normally sold in powder form encased in a single gelatin capsule for an excessive amount of money.

After consulting with the Office of the State Attorney, Okaloosa Sheriff’s Investigators applied for and received search warrants to seize controlled substances and drug paraphernalia from these businesses.

Each of these locations and all other locations within Okaloosa County selling these substances, or inventory that is similar in appearance or design to the controlled substances, have been served or are going to be served letters directing them to immediately cease and desist possession, manufacture, distribution and sale of these compounds.

Sheriff Ashley is asking for the voluntary compliance of the businesses to stop the selling of all synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones.

This investigation is being led by the Okaloosa County Multi-Agency Drug Task Force which is comprised of Sheriff’s Investigators, the Niceville Police Department, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Any additional questions in regard to this action, please contact Lieutenant Michael Card (850) 609-2003 or Captain Arnold Brown (850) 609-2000 of the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office Criminal Investigations Division.

The locations are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woodstock</td>
<td>311 Government Ave, Niceville, FL 32578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haight Ashbury</td>
<td>1 Harbor Boulevard Destin, FL 32541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Xchange</td>
<td>127 Harbor Blvd, Suite 1, Destin, FL 32541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Kites</td>
<td>127 Harbor Blvd, Suite 5, Destin, FL 32541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Heady’s</td>
<td>204 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE #1, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blount’s Emporium</td>
<td>1584 S. Pearl St. Crestview, FL 32539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6B Thrifty Food Store</td>
<td>498 South Wilson Street, Crestview, FL, 32536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Smokin Tiki</td>
<td>112 Eglin Pkwy, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass Rootz</td>
<td>109 Hwy 98 E, Destin, FL, 32541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be Southern Fried</td>
<td>27 Rickey Avenue, Fort Walton Beach, FL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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“The Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate”
LINK WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2012/1175/BillText/er/PDF

###
MORE SEARCH WARRANTS EXECUTED IN CONTINUED CRACKDOWN ON SYNTHETIC DRUGS

The Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office, with support from the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Niceville Police Department and the Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco conducted four simultaneous search warrant raids on specialty shops around Okaloosa County that are selling controlled substances commonly known as “Spice” and “bath salts” as part of their business practice. A 5th search warrant was executed at the home of store owner Patrick Anderson of Bluewater Bay. In addition, the Walton County Sheriff’s Office conducted a similar raid on a business there.

Law enforcement officers have purchased substances from the businesses that have been confirmed by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement as being controlled substances, or analogs of controlled substances as defined in Florida State Statute 893.0356.

Okaloosa County, the State of Florida, and the United States are plagued with specialty shops and internet sites that are selling synthetic cannabinoids, which are designed to mimic tetrahydrocannabinol/THC (THC the primary psychotropic chemical found in marijuana) and synthetic cathinones, which are designed to mimic cocaine, methamphetamine and other controlled stimulants.

In some instances these untested and uncontrolled substances are 500 to 2000 times stronger than the actual illicit substance. Some people that are buying these substances and ingesting them believe that they are legal and safe. However medical professionals are advising otherwise.
Law enforcement officers seized bath salts and Spice products, along with drug-related paraphernalia, cash, and documents.

Arrests are pending.

A similar raid in March of this year targeted ten Okaloosa County stores, including two of the same stores searched today: Woodstock in Niceville and Haight Ashbury in Destin.

The locations where search warrants were executed today are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woodstock</td>
<td>311 Government Avenue, Valparaiso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haight Ashbury</td>
<td>1 Harbor Boulevard, Destin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodstock</td>
<td>329 Mary Esther Boulevard, Mary Esther</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodstock</td>
<td>118 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home of Business Owner Patrick Anderson</td>
<td>615 Birkdale Circle, Niceville</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOR OCSO VIDEO LINK TO:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdM83Jqx5b8&feature=youtu.be

###
TWO CHARGED IN SALE OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS

Mahmud Abdul-Qader                   Husam Qader

This morning (July 31) the Okaloosa County Multi Agency Drug Task Force (DTF) arrested 47-year old Husam Qader and 54-year old Mahmud Abdul Qader at the 6B Thrifty Food Mart in Crestview in connection with the sale of synthetic controlled substances – sale of drugs within 1000 feet of a place of worship.

During the month of June 2012, members of the Okaloosa County Multi-Agency Drug Task Force purchased a suspected synthetic cathinone (powerful synthetic/designer stimulant) labeled as “Blue Star Blessed Powder” from 6B Thrifty Foods located at 498 S. Wilson Street in Crestview.

Mahmud Abdul Qader was positively identified as the store employee who sold the suspected synthetic cathinone.

A lab report from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement confirmed that the substance in the container labeled “Blue Star Blessed Powder” was Pentedrone, a material which is substantially similar to Methcathinone, a Schedule I controlled substance.

A search warrant/raid was conducted at the above location on July 5, 2012 in which Husam Qader was present and identified as a store co-manager. Post-Miranda, Husam Qader advised he was the person who obtained the “Blue Star Blessed Powder” prior to the controlled purchase and put it in the store to sell for a profit. He stated that he alone brings the substances in the store to be sold by employees.

(continued on page 2)
During the raid, law enforcement seized items labeled “Captain Kratom, Klimax, Lick Me All Over, Wild Sex and Kushie Kush” among many others and over $136,000.00 in cash.

The location of the narcotics transaction was approximately 500 feet from Lifepoint Church located at 400 S. Ferdon Blvd. in Crestview.

The DTF has made multiple purchases of controlled substances from this store, with FDLE chemical analysis showing controlled substances such as AM-2201, Pyrrolidinovalerophenone and Pentedrone being present.

The DTF has previously conducted a search warrant/raid at this same location on March 26th. A cease and desist letter from Sheriff Larry Ashley, in regard to the selling of synthetic drugs, was served upon the store, as well as information in regards to Florida controlled substance laws. No arrests were made at that point.

The DTF is working in concert with the Drug Enforcement Administration to combat the threat of synthetic drugs and the impact they are having on our communities and will continue to aggressively target drug law violators.

The DTF is comprised of law enforcement officers from the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office, the Niceville Police Department and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

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“The Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate”
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 methylenedioxyprovalerone (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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"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"
BATH SALTS EXAMPLES:

Sept. 24 2012: man at Mary Esther motel who’d been snorting powder from one of the “head shops” was “erratic, delusional, and was sweating profusely”, stating there were people out to kill him. Baker Act and transported to FWBMC.

Offense 2817 – 2012: Son attacked mother under Hospice Care in Crestview, striking her, punching her in the chest where had scars from multiple heart surgeries, ripping hair from her head, and pushing her head into a door. Had been “abusing synthetic drugs for last two weeks to include spice and bath salts”. Arrested.

Offense 2502 – 2012: “FWB man called saying there were people behind his house talking. Had cut his arms saying “he believed his cell phone was watching him and that people on the other end were going to get him. Admitted to smoking spice. Baker Act.

Offense 2147 – 2012 Man using bath salts reports seeing subjects no one else can see. Pulled a knife on a neighbor thinking she was one of the people after him. Baker Act.

Offense 2105 – 2012: Destin man using bath salts spotted running wildly across Harbor Boulevard stating the “Feds” were chasing him, pointing at vehicles that weren’t visible and stating he’d been shot but had no injuries. Baker Act.

Offense 2032 – 2012: Crestview woman using spice says she has extreme hallucinations and sees white spots.

Offense 1378 – 2012: Fort Walton Beach man smoking spice and drinking began destroying things in home and pushed wheelchair-bound girlfriend. Also threw a bucket mixture of bleach and water on her. Arrested.

1/25/12: Laurel Hill woman says her son who had been abusing bath salts choked her and he claimed people had been entering their house and banging on the
walls or making noises. He stated the people “were after him for an unknown reason and had even found ways to move throughout the residence without being caught. He and his wife say carbon monoxide had been seeping into their car. Deputy found the man had smashed out the windows and torn apart the car’s interior, stuffing the vents with clothing and vehicle parts to keep the gas out of the car. Woman, who had also been using bath salts said a person came out of a chair from the fabric just before deputies arrived. Both Baker Acted.

Offense 759 – 2012: Man running down middle of State Road 85 near Crestview was confused, delusional, and extremely paranoid yelling phrases such as “please don’t kill me, I was just stabbed, help me”. Had mixed bath salts with sweet tea and consumed before left his house and entered highway. Baker Act.

Offense 1069 – 2011: Laurel Hill son who smoked Spice with a friend stated his heart began racing, muscles were spasming, and he became nauseated. Taken to Florala Hospital.

Offense 7644 – 2011: Woman says son using bath salts, speaking about Mexicans attacking the house with knives and sex offenders. Became violent with deputies. Taken to NOMC ER.

Offense 635 – 2011: Okaloosa Island man who been using spice and bath salts had not slept for six straight days, became paranoid and threatened to kill himself and his family. Baker Act.

1/10/2011: Destin man shot up the inside his home, stating someone came in and had been shooting at him. The man had been inhaling bath salts. He went to neighbors home with his gun and began beating on the neighbors door - yelling “help me, help me”. Taken to FWBMC and then arrested.

Offense 198 – 2011: Man on bath salts at Days Inn in Destin began destroying the room and beat his girlfriend. Arrested.
December 11, 2012

Dear Sir/Ma’am,

You are hereby notified that Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi has issued Emergency Rule 2ER12-1 (copy attached hereto) establishing several new psychoactive substances classified as Cannabinoids, Cathinones, and Synthetic Phenethylamines (hallucinogenic compounds) as controlled substances in accordance with Schedule I, Subsection 893.03(1), Florida Statutes. A complete listing of the new psychoactive substances that are potentially harmful and have been emergency scheduled by the Attorney General’s Office is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

You are hereby further notified that pursuant to Attorney General Emergency Rule 2ER12-1, any business or person who, possesses, manufactures, distributes and/or sells these substances is subject to criminal prosecution and/or civil penalties as authorized by Florida Statutes.

Accordingly, you are hereby directed to immediately cease and desist the possession, manufacture, distribution and sale of these compounds and surrender forthwith any such compounds which you might possess to the Deputy who has presented this letter. The immediate surrender of these compounds demonstrates your voluntary compliance with the Attorney General’s Emergency Rule and will absolve you of any criminal liability for those compounds which you immediately surrender.

The intent of this letter is to educate you to this recent change in Florida law and to seek your voluntary compliance with that change. If you or individuals in your employ are found to be: in possession of, engaged in the manufacture of, sale or distribution of, these compounds after receipt of this letter, the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office will immediately and aggressively initiate actions to affect your/arrest and criminal prosecution as well as civil forfeiture actions as authorized by Florida Statutes.

Sincerely,

Larry R. Ashley
Sheriff of Okaloosa County

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of this notice has been hand delivered/forwarded by certified mail, return receipt requested to _______________________________, this ______ day of __________________ (month), 2012.

______________________________, Deputy Sheriff
Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office, (850) 651-7400
☐ 1250 N. Eglin Parkway, Shalimar, FL 32579-1234 ☆ Phone (850) 651-7410 ☆ Fax (850) 609-3048
☐ 296 Brackin Street, Crestview, FL 32539-2909 ☆ Phone (850) 689-5650 ☆ Fax (850) 689-5556

“The Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate”
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Dec. 11, 2012

Contact:
Jenn Meale
Phone: 850.245.0150
jennifer.meale@myfloridalegal.com

Attorney General Pam Bondi Outlaws Additional Synthetic Drugs

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Attorney General Pam Bondi today filed an emergency rule outlawing 22 new synthetic drugs, commonly called “bath salts,” “K2” or “Spice.” Attorney General Bondi was joined by law enforcement officers and a health practitioner as she announced the emergency rule designating new synthetic drugs as Schedule I of controlled substances, making it a third-degree felony for an individual to “sell, manufacture, or deliver, or possess with intent to sell, manufacture or deliver” these drugs. Synthetic drugs can cause psychotic episodes, hallucinations, seizures, paranoia, tremors, and more.

“Synthetic cannabinoids have been linked to thousands of emergency department visits across the country, and a majority of those visits are by patients ages 12-29,” stated Attorney General Pam Bondi. “I am grateful to our law enforcement partners and the health care community for their continued dedication to protecting Florida’s youth from these horrible drugs.”

“These dangerous drugs are widely available in smoke shops, truck stops, convenience stores and through the internet,” said FDLE Commissioner Gerald Bailey. “Retailers who stock these products have two options: surrender their inventory or face enforcement action.”

Attorney General Bondi was joined by the following: Commissioner Gerald Bailey, Florida Department of Law Enforcement; Surgeon General Dr. John H. Armstrong, Department of Health; Chief Dennis Jones, Tallahassee Police Department, President of the Florida Police Chiefs Association; and Sheriff Frank McKeithen, Bay County Sheriff’s Office, Representing the Florida Sheriffs Association.

Since taking office, Attorney General Bondi has been dedicated to protecting Floridians from synthetic drugs. In 2011, Attorney General Pam Bondi signed an emergency rule that temporarily outlawed MDPV, commonly known as "bath salts." Attorney General Bondi has worked closely with the Florida Legislature over the past two legislative sessions to add
cathinones, commonly known as “bath salts,” and cannabinoids, commonly known as “K2” or “Spice,” to the schedule of controlled substances. She will work with the Florida Legislature during the 2013 legislative session to ban these 22 additional drugs permanently.

Please follow this link to view a copy of the emergency rule:

###

Please note that Florida has a broad public records law, and that all correspondence to me via email may be subject to disclosure.
STATE OF FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

IN RE: EMERGENCY RULE 2ER 12-1,
ADDITION:

Pentedrone (2-(methylamino)-1-phenyl-1-pentanone)
Fluoramphetamine
Fluoromethamphetamine
Methoxetamine
Methiopropamine
4-Methylbuphedrone (2-Methylamino-1-(4-methylphenyl)butan-1-one)
APB ((2-aminopropyl)benzofuran)
APDB ((2-aminopropyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran)
UR-144 ((1-pentyl-1H-indol-3-yl)(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methanone)
XLR11 ((1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methanone)
(1-(5-chloropentyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methanone
AKB48 (1-pentyl-N-tricyclo[3.3.1.13,7]dec-1-yl-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide)
AM-2201 [(2-iodophenyl)[1-([1-methyl-2-piperidinyl)methyl]-1H-indol-3-yl]-methanone)
STS-135 (1-(5-fluoropentyl)-N-tricyclo[3.3.1.13,7]dec-1-yl-1H-indole-3-carboxamide)
URB-597 ((3’-aminocarbonyl)[1,1’-biphenyl]-3-yl)-cyclohexylcarbamate)
URB-602 [(1,1’-biphenyl)-3-yl-carbamic acid, cyclohexyl ester]
URB-754 (5-(methyl-2-[4-(methylphenyl)amino]-1-benzoxazin-4-one)
2C-D (2-(5-Dimethoxy-4-methylphenyl)ethanamine)
2C-H (2-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)ethanamine)
2C-N (2-(2,5-Dimethoxy-4-nitrophenyl)ethanamine)
2C-P (2-(2,5-Dimethoxy-4-(n)-propylphenyl)ethanamine)
25I-NBO(Me)(4-iodo-2,5-dimethoxy-N-[2-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-benzeneethanamine)

TO SCHEDULE I, SUBSECTION 893.03(1)(c), F.S.

/ 

FINDINGS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
IN SUPPORT OF EMERGENCY RULE 2ER12-1

Attorney General Pam Bondi finds there are currently dangerous psychoactive substances that
are not scheduled as controlled substances and are being marketed in Florida. Subsequent to the
most recent revisions to Section 893.03(1)(c), Florida Statutes, which became effective in March,
2012, Florida law enforcement has noted the emergence of new chemical variants of several
recently scheduled substances. Although technically different from currently scheduled
substances, these substances are generally classifiable as Synthetic Cannabinoids, Cathinones,
and Synthetic Phenethylamines. These substances are being abused because they are ostensibly
legal and often times perceived as a safer alternative to illegal drugs such as marijuana, MDMA
("ecstasy"), cocaine, and amphetamines. But, in many cases, they are more dangerous. Due to
their chemical design, they are commonly available for purchase in specialty smoke shops, over the internet, in convenience stores and from other retailers, making them easily obtained for abuse by Florida’s children and young adults. Such abuse presents severe health risks, and an immediate danger and imminent hazard to the health, safety, and welfare of Floridians. Therefore, effective today, December 11, 2012, this office is adopting Emergency Rule 2ER which adds the following substances to Schedule I, Subsection 893.03(1)(c), F.S.:

**CATHINONES**

Pentedrone (2-(methylamino)-1-phenyl-1-pentanone)

Fluoroamphetamine

Fluoromethamphetamine

Methoxetamine

Methiopropamine

4-Methylbuphedrone (2-Methylamino-1-(4-methylphenyl)butan-1-one)

APB ((2-aminopropyl)benzofuran)

APDB ((2-aminopropyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran)

**SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS**

UR-144 ((1-pentyl-1H-indol-3-yl)(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methanone)

XLR11 ((1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methanone)

(1-(5-chloropentyl)-1H-indol-3-yl) (2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methanone

AKB48 (1-pentyl-N-tricyclo[3.3.1.13,7]dec-1-yl-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide)

AM-2233 ((2-iodophenyl)[1-[(1-methyl-2-piperidinyl)methyl]-1H-indol-3-yl]-methanone)

STS-135 (1-(5-fluoropentyl)-N-tricyclo[3.3.1.13,7]dec-1-yl-1H-indole-3-carboxamide)

URB-597 (3'-(aminocarbonyl)[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)-cyclohexylcarbamate)

URB-602 ([1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl-carbamic acid, cyclohexyl ester)
URB-754 (6-methyl-2-[(4-methylphenyl)amino]-1-benozoazin-4-one)

**SYNTHETIC PHENETHYLAMINES**

2C-D (2-(2,5-Dimethoxy-4-methylphenyl)ethanamine)

2C-H (2-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)ethanamine)

2C-N (2-(2,5-Dimethoxy-4-nitrophenyl)ethanamine)

2C-P (2-(2,5-Dimethoxy-4-(n)-propylphenyl)ethanamine)

25I-NBOMe(4-iodo-2,5-dimethoxy-N-[2-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-benzeneethanamine)

**ANALYSIS**

Subsection 893.035(7)(a), Florida Statutes, requires the Attorney General to consider when determining whether to adopt an emergency rule controlling a substance under Chapter 893 whether the substance is an imminent hazard to public safety, whether it has potential for abuse, its history and current pattern of abuse, the scope, duration, and significance of abuse and what, if any, risk there is to the public health.

A. Potential for and Significance of Abuse and Risk to Public Health

The Attorney General and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement has received intelligence from the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation indicating that the above referenced compounds are being labeled inaccurately and marketed as a variety of legitimate household products in a thinly veiled effort to mask their true use as abused psychoactive substances. All of the above substances are marketed under a variety of pseudo brand names. They usually contain the disclaimer “not for human consumption,” but are sold in specialty smoke shops, over the internet, and in convenience stores for prices that are disproportionately high for the household product they purport to be, such as up to $30.00 for 500 mg packets. Furthermore, a pattern has emerged in which the distributors of these substances respond to the scheduling of additional controlled substances by the Florida Legislature by introducing new variants with labels on the packaging claiming to conform to the new laws. These actions further emphasize the true purpose of these substances as chemicals of abuse.

1. **Cathinones**

Open source intelligence suggests these substances are usually taken by nasal insufflation (snorted) in powder form but also smoked or swallowed. They are stimulants that affect neurotransmitters in the brain and cause a sensation to the user similar to cocaine and amphetamines. They have been known to cause intense cravings for the substances and users
have been reported to go on multiday binges that often cause medical problems necessitating medical intervention. The Cathinone substances are known to produce side effects, some of which are quite severe.

**Short term side effects include but are not limited to the following:**

- Increased heart rate
- Agitation
- Diminished requirement for sleep
- Lack of appetite
- Increased alertness and awareness
- Anxiety fits and delusions
- Anxiety fits and delusions
- Nosebleeds

**More serious side effects include:**

- Muscle spasms
- Blood circulation problems including increased blood pressure
- Kidney failure
- Seizures
- Muscle damage
- Loss of bowel control
- Hallucinations
- Aggression
- Severe paranoia
- Panic attacks
- Sharp increase in body temperature
- Risk of renal failure
- Cardiac arrest

**Cathinones Case Histories:**

**Case 1**: A 23 year old male was observed walking in and out of traffic at a major intersection, hanging on cars with his fists, screaming profanities and acting erratically. He was yelling out rap song lyrics and speaking different languages. At the emergency room, he was combative, resisted removal from the police car and displayed unusual strength requiring five individuals to help secure him to a hospital gurney. Upon admission into the ER, he had to be restrained, was combative, diaphoretic (sweating excessively) and had a body temperature of 105.9°F. He was also bleeding from a tongue laceration (bite mark) which may have been caused from an acute seizure. Approximately three and a half hours after admission, he went into cardiac arrest and was revived with cardiopulmonary resuscitation. His final cardiac arrest occurred approximately 24 hours after admission and he was pronounced dead. Autopsy results indicated the cause of
death to be "Intoxication by Methylone," a known Cathinone. Open source reporting indicates the above listed cathinones to be emergency scheduled are just as dangerous or in some cases more dangerous than Methylone.

Case 2: A 23 year old male went out with friends to an after-hours club. A witness reported that the victim took LSD. The witness believed that the victim was having a "bad trip and freaking out." Another witness reported that the victim was acting "irrational and sweating." The victim also told a witness that he was "rolling on ecstasy." Due to the victim's erratic behavior, management requested that he be removed from the club and they facilitated his removal by securing him to a chair with plastic food wrap. They wrapped the plastic food wrap around his chest and arms and then his legs. After the victim was secured to the chair, they placed the victim (in the chair) in the back of a van. The ambient air temperature outside the van was 77°F that day. The victim was left in the van for approximately three to four hours until a person (who was not at the after-hours club) located the victim. The victim was still bound to the chair with plastic food wrap and convulsing. He was immediately transported to a hospital. Upon arrival in the ER, advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) was initiated. His core body temperature was noted to be 107°F and he was pronounced dead within 45 minutes after admission into the ER. As with case study 1, the autopsy results indicated the cause of death to be "Intoxication by Methylone," a known Cathinone. Again, open source reporting indicates the above listed cathinones to be emergency scheduled are just as dangerous or in some cases more dangerous than Methylone.

2. Synthetic Cannabinoids

The original intent behind the creation of synthetic cannabinoids, such as the JWH compounds synthesized by Dr. John W. Huffman, was for research purposes only. The goals of the research were to recreate and study, in a laboratory setting, how the brain would react to synthetic compounds designed to mimic tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the principal psychoactive compound found in cannabis.

These substances, which numbered in the hundreds, were never intended to be ingested by humans; however, the publishing of Dr. Huffman’s research studies led unscrupulous individuals to create synthetic cannabinoids for recreational use. Once the synthetic cannabinoid powder is synthesized, it can be taken alone or applied to any type of material, such as a plant or paper, to be ingested thereby mimicking marijuana use. The Synthetic Cannabinoid substances are known to produce side effects, some of which are quite severe:

- Headaches
- Agitation
- Vomiting
- Dangerous Hallucinations
- Loss of Consciousness
- Elevated Blood Pressure
- Seizures
- Increased Heart Rate
- Increased Anxiety
- Convulsions
- Unresponsiveness
- Suicidal Thoughts

Cannabinoid Case History:

Case 1: On March 17, 2011, a 21 year old male was involved in a vehicle accident which resulted in the death of three individuals in Leon County, Florida. Evidence and intelligence gained during the investigation, coupled with blood test results show the driver was under the influence of a synthetic cannabinoid (AM-2201) which was deemed to be a direct causation of the crash. Open source intelligence suggests that the cannabinoids identified above have similar pharmacological effects as AM-2201 and are just as dangerous.

3. Synthetic Phenethylamines

Users ingest phenethylamines for their stimulant and hallucinogenic effects. One category of phenethylamines that has received attention in recent years contains 2,5-dimethoxy or 2C-derivatives. These hallucinogenic compounds are widely available online, including shipping facilities located within the United States. Although some retailers of these chemicals include the disclaimer the substance is a research chemical and not for human consumption, a few do advertise the chemicals as being sold for human ingestion. It is not common to find these chemicals sold in local smoke shops since they are obscure research substances; however, with the popularity of synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones on the rise and their respective availability being diminished due to legislation and enforcement actions, these drugs and their presence in Florida are a concern. These chemicals are usually sold in 20 milligram quantities for $10, although some websites charge as little as $10 per gram. Various open source intelligence suggest that due to the direct effect on the body’s central nervous system, the 2C-family of compounds is highly dose-sensitive. The danger to inexperienced users is the delay in the drug’s effect, which may take up to 90 minutes after being ingested orally. Nasal insufflation (snorting) of the substance will decrease this delay. During this period, impatient users may ingest more of the substance, which can increase the chances of overdosing. After the drug begins to take effect, the duration of the hallucinogenic effects averages between six to ten hours. After effects may last up to an additional six hours. The self-reported effects of the drug range from vivid hallucinations to a perceived increase in cognitive awareness. Users normally experience physical side effects such as dilated pupils and profuse sweating. The stimulant, however, has a direct effect on the body’s central nervous system and can cause life threatening symptoms, such as:
- Difficulty breathing
- Uncontrollable muscle spasms
- Cardiac arrest

In addition, the 2C-Family of compounds’ ability to bind to certain serotonin receptors as a psychedelic chemical can cause HPPD, or Hallucinogen Persisting Perception Disorder. HPPD is a syndrome that can only be diagnosed as a result of the use of psychedelic substances in which visual disturbances persist in an individual after a drug has left their system. Examples include halos around objects, the illusion of movement in static objects, and grainy vision.

Synthetic Phenethylamines case histories:

Case 1: On March 16, 2011, a 19-year-old man died from cardiac arrest at a Spring Break party in Blaine, Minnesota, after taking 2C-E. Ten other party attendees, ranging in age from 16 to 21, also needed medical attention from ingesting too much of the substance. Two were admitted to the hospital in critical condition. The individual responsible for providing 2C-E to the decedent was charged with felony murder in the death. Party attendees who were conscious at the time when police and medical personnel arrived on scene were combative and difficult to subdue, as a result of the presence of 2C-E in their systems. Criminal intelligence supports that all known chemicals within the 2C-family have similar pharmacological effects 2C-E and are just as dangerous.

Case 2: On November 3, 2012, a 21-year-old man accepted a single drop dosage of 25-I from a stranger at a festival in New Orleans. The victim immediately started babbling incoherently. The victim was rushed to a nearby medical tent, but within 30 minutes he had a seizure and never regained consciousness. He was transported to Tulane University Hospital and placed on life support. The victim died three days later. Autopsy results are pending; however, the suspected cause of death is the consumption of 25-I. It should be noted that the 21-year old victim was one of at least three individuals treated for suspected 25-I overdoses during the weekend.

Case 3: In June 2012, two incidents occurred in which teenagers died from overdoses of 2C-I in East Grand Forks, Minnesota, and Grand Forks, North Dakota. In East Grand Forks, two teenagers mixed 2C-I white powder with melted chocolate and consumed the drug-laced candy. Approximately one hour later, one victim was reported to be acting erratically, foaming at the mouth, hyperventilating, and smashing his head against the ground. Three and half hours later the victim died. The other individual on scene was subsequently charged with third degree murder related to the death of the victim. In Grand Forks, a few days later, an 18 year old victim was found dead on a sidewalk from a similar overdose. The Grand Forks Police Department indicated that the synthetics in the case were from the same source and being purchased online. Authorities believe the ultimate source of supply to be overseas. The case was taken federally as a drug conspiracy and is currently an active investigation. Again, criminal intelligence supports that all known chemicals within the 2C-family have similar pharmacological effects 2C-I and are just as dangerous.
B. Scope, History, Duration and Current Pattern of Abuse

Prior to today, different forms of cathinones, synthetic cannabinoid and synthetic phenethylamines have been scheduled by the federal government, Florida, and other States. Foreign countries, primarily in Europe, have also enacted laws prohibiting the sale and import of such products. While the mental and physical dangers associated with these unregulated synthetic substances have prompted many governments to swiftly outlaw these products, new or slightly altered forms of existing cathinones, synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic phenethylamines appear on the shelves almost as fast as governments are able to get the older versions off the market.

Since 2010, the Florida Department of Health and the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) have reported numerous health-related calls to both the poison control centers and emergency rooms throughout Florida and the United States concerning the use of these synthetic drugs. The majority of calls and ER visits involve individuals 12 to 24 years of age.

CONCLUSION

The danger posed by the abuse of the aforementioned psychoactive substances present a real and imminent hazard to the health, safety, and welfare of Floridians. History demonstrates that one of the most effective means of curtailing abuse of a substance is to designate it a controlled substance under the law and provide felony penalties for persons who manufacture, distribute, sell, or possess the controlled substance. Law enforcement authorities then have the essential legal tool they need – a felony charge – to arrest, prosecute, and incarcerate persons who manufacture and peddle this dangerous substance.

Dated this 11th day of December, 2012.

PAMELA JO BONDI
ATTORNEY GENERAL
CERTIFICATION OF

DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS EMERGENCY RULE

FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

I hereby certify that an immediate danger to the public health, safety or welfare
requires emergency action and that the attached rule is necessitated by the immediate
danger. I further certify that the procedures used in the promulgation of this emergency
rule were fair under the circumstances and that the rule otherwise complies with
subsection 120.54(4), Florida Statutes. The adoption of this rule was authorized by the
head of the agency and this rule is hereby adopted upon its filing with the Department
of State.

Rule No.

2ER12-1

Under the provision of subparagraph 120.54(4)(d), F.S., this rule takes effect upon filing
unless a later time and date less than 20 days from filing is set out below:

Effective: ____________________________

(Month) (Day) (Year)

Signature, Person Authorized
To Certify Rules

Attorney General
Title

Number of Pages Certified
NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULE

DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

RULE TITLE:

Addition of

Pentedrone (2-(methylamino)-1-phenyl-1-pentanone)

Fluoroamphetamine

Fluoromethamphetamine

Methoxamine

Methiopropamine

4-Methylbuphedrone (2-Methylamino-1-(4-methylphenyl)butan-1-one)

APB ((2-aminopropyl)benzofuran)

APDB ((2-aminopropyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran)

UR-144 ((1-pentyl-1H-indol-3-yl)(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methanone)

XLR11 ((1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methanone)

(1-(5-chloropentyl)-1H-indol-3-yl) (2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methanone

AKB48 (1-pentyl-N-tricyclo[3.3.1.13,7]dec-1-yl-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide)

AM-2233 ((2-iodophenyl)[1]-[(1-methyl-2-piperidinyl)methyl]-1H-indol-3-yl]-methanone)

STS-135 (1-(5-fluoropentyl)-N-tricyclo[3.3.1.13,7]dec-1-yl-1H-indole-3-carboxamide)

URB-597 ((3′-(aminocarbonyl)[1,1′-biphenyl]-3-yl)-cyclohexylcarbamate)

URB-602 ([1,1′-biphenyl]-3-yl-carbamic acid, cyclohexyl ester)

URB-754 (6-methyl-2-[(4-methylphenyl)amino]-1-benzoxazin-4-one)

2C-D (2-(2,5-Dimethoxy-4-methylphenyl)ethanamine)

2C-H (2-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)ethanamine)

2C-N (2-(2,5-Dimethoxy-4-nitrophenyl)ethanamine)

2C-P (2-(2,5-Dimethoxy-4-(n)-propylphenyl)ethanamine)

25I-NBOMe(4-iodo-2,5-dimethoxy-N-[(2-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-benzeneethanamine)

to Schedule I, Subsection 893.03(1)(c), F.S.

2ER12-1
SPECIFIC REASONS FOR FINDING AN IMMEDIATE DANGER TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY OR WELFARE:

In written findings published on the date this emergency rule was filed with the Secretary of State's Office, Attorney General Bondi has found that there is a need to immediately place the above-mentioned psychoactive substances classifiable as Synthetic Cannabinoids, Cathinones, and Synthetic Phenethylamines under Schedule I, Subsection 893.03(1)(c), F.S., in order to curtail their abuse by Florida's children, young adults, and others. These substances are ostensibly legal and often perceived as a safer alternative to illegal drugs such as marijuana, MDMA ("ecstasy"), cocaine, and amphetamines. In many cases, however, they are more dangerous. Due to their chemical design, they are commonly available for purchase in specialty smoke shops, over the internet, in convenience stores and from other retailers, making them easily obtainable. These circumstances present an immediate and imminent hazard to the public health, safety, and welfare which requires emergency action. In addition the Attorney General has found that the above-mentioned compounds meet the statutory criteria for placement as a controlled substance in Schedule I, Subsection 893.03(1)(c), F.S.

REASONS FOR CONCLUDING THAT THE PROCEDURE USED IS FAIR UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES:

SUMMARY OF THE RULE:

The above-mentioned Synthetic Cannabinoids, Cathinones, and Synthetic Phenethylamines present an immediate and imminent hazard to the public health, safety, and welfare which requires emergency action. The Attorney General will ask the Florida Legislature to memorialize this action through legislation in its 2013 legislative session. The Attorney General will immediately begin rulemaking procedures if the Legislature fails to act. A copy of the Attorney General's findings in support of this emergency rule may be obtained by contacting the Office of the Attorney General, PL-01, The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050; (850) 245-0145.

SUMMARY OF THE RULE: Under the authority of Section 893.05, Florida Statutes, additional substances are being added to Schedule I, Subsection 893.03(1)(c), F.S.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE EMERGENCY RULE IS: Emery Gainey, Director, Law Enforcement Relations, Victim Services & Criminal Justice Programs, Department of Legal Affairs, PL-01, The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050
THE FULL TEXT OF THE EMERGENCY RULE IS:

2ER12-1 Addition of

Pentedrone (2-(methylamino)-1-phenyl-1-pentanone)
Fluoroamphetamine
Fluoromethamphetamine
Methoxetamine
Methiopropamine
4-Methylbuphedrone (2-Methylamino-1-(4-methylphenyl)butan-1-one)
APB (2-aminopropylbenzofuran)
APDB (2-aminopropyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran.
UR-144 ((1-pentyl-1H-indol-3-yl)(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methane)
XLR11 ((1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methane)
(1-(5-chloropentyl)-1H-indol-3-yl) (2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methane
AKB48 (1-pentyl-N-tricyclo[3.3.1.13.7]dec-1-yl-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide)
AM-2201 ((2-iodophenyl)(1-(1-methyl-2-piperidinyldimethy)-1H-indol-3-yl)methane)
STS-135 (1-(5-fluoropentyl)-N-tricyclo[3.3.1.13.7]dec-1-yl-1H-indole-3-carboxamide)
URB-597 (3′-(aminocarbonyl)-1,1′-biphenyl)-3-yl-cyclohexylcarbamate
URB-602 (1,1′-biphenyl)-3-yl-carbamic acid, cyclohexyl ester
URB-754 (6-methyl-2-[(4-methylphenyl)amino]-1-benzoxazin-4-one)
2C-D (2-(2,5-Dimethoxy-4-methylphenyl)ethanamine)
2C-H (2-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)ethanamine)
2C-N (2-(2,5-Dimethoxy-4-nitrophenyl)ethanamine)
2C-P (2-(2,5-Dimethoxy-4-(n-propylphenyl)ethanamine)
251-NBOMe (4-iodo-2,5-dimethoxy-N-(2-methoxyphenyl)methyl)benzeneethanamine)

to Schedule 1, Subsection 893.03(1)(c), F.S.

(1) Under the authority of Section 893.035, F.S., the following substances are hereby controlled substances.

added to Schedule 1, subsection 893.03(1)(c), F.S.
(a) Pentedrone (2-(methylamino)-1-phenyl-1-pentanone)
(b) Fluoroamphetamine
(c) Fluoromethamphetamine
(d) Methoxetamine
(e) Methiopropamine
(f) 4-Methylbuphedrone (2-Methylamino-1-(4-methylphenyl)butan-1-one)
(g) APB ((2-aminopropyl)benzofuran)
(h) APDB ((2-aminopropyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran)
(i) URI-144 (1-(1-pentyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methanone)
(j) XLR11 ((1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)-2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methanone).
(k) 1-(5-chloropentyl)-1H-indol-3-yl) (2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methanone.
(l) AKB48 (1-pentyl-N-tricyclo[3.3.1.13.7]deca-1-yl-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide).
(m) AM-2201 ((2-iodophenyl)[1-[(1-methyl-2-piperidinyl)methyl]-1H-indol-3-yl)methanone).
(n) STS-135 (1-(5-fluoropentyl)-N-tricyclo[3.3.1.13.7]dec-1-yl-1H-indole-3-carboxamide).
(o) URB-597 (3′-(aminocarbonyl) furyl-1′-biphenyl)-3-yl)-cyclohexyl)carbamate).
(p) URB-602 (1′,1′-biphenyl)-3-yl-carboxylic acid, cyclohexyl ester).
(q) URB-754 (6-methyl-2-[(4-methylphenyl)amino]-1-benzoxazin-4-one).
(r) 2C-D (2-(2,5-Dimethoxy-4-methylphenyl)ethanamine).
(s) 2C-H (2-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)ethanamine).
(t) 2C-N (2-(2,5-Dimethoxy-4-nitrophenyl)ethanamine).
(u) 2C-P (2-(2,5-Dimethoxy-4-(n)-propylphenyl)ethanamine).
(v) 25I-NBOMe(4-ido-2,5-dimethoxy-N-(2-methoxyphenyl)methyl)benzylethanamine.

(2) All provisions of Chapter 893, F.S., applicable to controlled substances listed in Schedule I shall be applicable to the substances listed in subsections (1)(a) through (v), above.
Rulemaking Authority: 893.035 F.S.

Law Implemented: 893.035 F.S.

History: New

THIS RULE TAKES EFFECT IMMEDIATELY UPON BEING FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE UNLESS A LATER TIME AND DATE IS SPECIFIED IN THE RULE.
Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits Involving Synthetic Cannabinoids

Synthetic cannabinoids are substances that are designed to affect the body in a manner similar to marijuana but that are not derived from the marijuana plant. Because they can be purchased with no age restrictions, their popularity among young people has grown.

Synthetic cannabinoids are known by a variety of names, such as “Spice” or “K2,” and sometimes are referred to as “synthetic marijuana” or “fake marijuana” because they are marketed with claims that their effects mimic those of marijuana. Synthetic cannabinoids are typically sprayed onto herbal products, many of which are listed as inactive on the product packaging.

Although certain synthetic cannabinoids and/or specific chemicals contained in these preparations were made illegal in some States, a comprehensive national ban was not enacted until July 2012. Therefore, products containing synthetic cannabinoids were frequently marketed as “legal” and “not for human consumption” and could be purchased online and in legal retail outlets such as convenience stores.

Because products marketed as synthetic cannabinoids contain different ingredients from each other, it is difficult to identify which physical effects are caused by synthetic cannabinoids. They have been reported to cause agitation, anxiety, nausea, vomiting, tachycardia, elevated blood pressure, tremor, seizures, hallucinations, paranoid behavior, and nonresponsiveness. These products are relatively new, and related clinical and public health outcomes have not been fully examined. Synthetic cannabinoids are not currently identified using routine screening tests, and the creation of new products of this type makes it difficult to detect these chemicals or regulate these products.

The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) first detected a measurable number of emergency department (ED) visits involving synthetic cannabinoids in 2010, and this report presents data related to these visits. DAWN is a public health surveillance system that monitors drug-related ED visits in the United States. To be a DAWN

IN BRIEF

In 2010, an estimated 11,400 emergency department (ED) visits involved a synthetic cannabinoid product, sometimes referred to as “synthetic marijuana” and commonly known by street names such as “Spice” or “K2.”

Three fourths of these ED visits involved patients aged 12 to 29 (75 percent), of which 78 percent were male.

The majority (76 percent) of these ED visits did not receive follow-up care upon discharge from the ED.
Drug Combinations

In the majority (59 percent) of ED visits involving synthetic cannabinoids for patients aged 12 to 29, no other substances were involved (Figure 2). This differs from ED visits involving other illicit drugs or nonmedical use of pharmaceuticals, in which the majority of visits involved multiple drugs. Synthetic cannabinoids were used in combination with one other substance in 36 percent of visits related to their use, but were rarely used in combination with two or more substances (6 percent). The types of drugs most frequently used in combination with synthetic cannabinoids were marijuana (17 percent), pharmaceuticals (17 percent), and alcohol (13 percent).

Disposition of ED Visits

Among ED visits involving synthetic cannabinoids made by patients aged 12 to 29 in 2010, it appears that the majority (76 percent) did not receive follow-up care (admission to the hospital, transfer to another health care facility, or referral to a detoxification/treatment program). Most of the 2,077 visits resulting in follow-up care involved synthetic cannabinoids in combination with other substances (75 percent).

Table 1. Emergency Department (ED) Visits Involving Synthetic Cannabinoids among Patients Aged 12 to 29, by Age Group: 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Estimated Number of ED Visits</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000 Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total, Aged 12 to 29</td>
<td>8,557</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 12 to 17</td>
<td>3,760</td>
<td>14.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 18 to 20</td>
<td>1,681</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 21 to 24</td>
<td>2,022</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 25 to 29</td>
<td>873</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Rates take into consideration the population size of each group; therefore, groups of different sizes may have varying numbers of ED visits but have similar population rates.

Source: 2010 SAMHSA Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN).
Synthetic Cannabinoids Compared with Marijuana-Related ED Visits

Because synthetic cannabinoids have been marketed as a legal alternative to marijuana, this section will provide a brief comparison of the patient characteristics of ED visits between marijuana and synthetic cannabinoids. Marijuana-related ED visits outnumber synthetic cannabinoid-related visits (461,028 vs. 11,406 visits). The average patient age for marijuana-related visits was 30 years and the average patient age for synthetic cannabinoid-related visits was 24 years. The age distribution also differed between the two drugs. Synthetic cannabinoid-related visits were concentrated in the younger age groups: 75 percent of the visits involved patients aged 12 to 29, with 33 percent of the patients aged 12 to 17. In comparison, 58 percent of marijuana-related visits involved patients aged 12 to 29, with 12 percent in the 12 to 17 age group (Figure 3).

When patients in the 12 to 29 age range were compared, synthetic cannabinoid-related ED visits were more likely to involve male patients than were marijuana-related visits (78 vs. 66 percent) (Figure 4). Further, synthetic cannabinoids were more likely to be the only drug implicated in the visit, whereas marijuana was more frequently combined with other drugs (59 vs. 31 percent, respectively; data not shown).

Discussion

As synthetic cannabinoids have become more available, the number of ED visits involving synthetic cannabinoids has increased. The higher proportion of ED visits in younger age groups, especially in patients aged 12 to 17, combined with results from a national survey of high school seniors revealing that 11 percent reported using “synthetic marijuana” in 2011, is cause for concern. Because it is difficult to regulate these products that are easily available online, synthetic cannabinoids may be more accessible to young people than marijuana. Educators can help prevent use of synthetic cannabinoids by addressing use of these

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Figure 2. Emergency Department (ED) Visits Involving Synthetic Cannabinoids Only or in Combination with Other Substances* among Patients Aged 12 to 29: 2010

*Because multiple drugs may be involved in each visit, percentages add to more than 100 percent.

Source: 2010 SAMHSA Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN)
substances in programs designed to prevent use of illicit drugs. Parents can also discuss the dangers of these drugs with their children and use parental controls for online purchases.

Because of limited availability of tests for synthetic cannabinoids, data collection efforts in the ED may have missed visits in which they were involved. However, even in the absence of positive drug test results, health care providers can remain alert to symptoms that may be attributed to synthetic cannabinoids and, when appropriate, inquire about their use. Further monitoring will be necessary to determine whether synthetic cannabinoid-related health problems continue to be reported. This monitoring can help improve awareness among health care professionals of the possible adverse health effects of these substances. Because most synthetic cannabinoid-related ED visits result in discharge from the ED, a patient’s time in the ED is a valuable opportunity for intervention and education.

Figure 4. Emergency Department (ED) Visits Involving Synthetic Cannabinoids Compared with Visits Involving Marijuana among Patients Aged 12 to 29, by Gender*: 2010

* The difference between ED visits involving synthetic cannabinoids and those involving marijuana was statistically significant at the .05 level for both genders.

Source: 2010 SAMHSA Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN).

Figure 3. Age Distribution of Synthetic Cannabinoid and Marijuana-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits: 2010

* Estimates for ED visits involving synthetic cannabinoids for patients aged 30 or older were suppressed due to low statistical precision.

Note: ED visits in which the patient age was unknown are excluded.

Source: 2010 SAMHSA Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN).
End Notes


6. Synthetic cannabinoids were reported to DAWN under the following names: Spice, K2, K2 Incense, K2 Joint, K2 Spice, K2 Spice Incense, K2 Summit, K2 Synthetic Marijuana, Black Mamba, Blaze Incense, Cloud 9, Damiana Leaf, JWH-018, JWH-250, Serenity Now Herbal Incense, Spike99 Ultra, Synthetic Cannabis, Synthetic Marijuana, and Wicked XXX Herbal Incense.


Suggested Citation

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (December 4, 2012). The DAWN Report: Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits Involving Synthetic Cannabinoids. Rockville, MD.

The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) is a public health surveillance system that monitors drug-related morbidity and mortality. DAWN uses a probability sample of hospitals to produce estimates of drug-related emergency department (ED) visits for the United States and selected metropolitan areas annually. DAWN also produces annual profiles of drug-related deaths reviewed by medical examiners or coroners in selected metropolitan areas and States.

Any ED visit related to recent drug use is included in DAWN. All types of drugs—licit and illicit—are covered. Alcohol involvement is documented for patients of all ages if it occurs with another drug. Alcohol is considered an illicit drug for minors and is documented even if no other drug is involved. The classification of drugs used in DAWN is derived from the Multum Lexicon, copyright 2010 Lexi-Comp, Inc., and/or Corner Multum, Inc. The Multum Licensing Agreement governing use of the Lexicon can be found at http://www.samhsa.gov/data/DAWN.aspx.

DAWN is one of three major surveys conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (SAMHSA/CMHSQ). For more information on other CBHSQ surveys, go to http://www.samhsa.gov/ohsamhsa. SAMHSA has contracts with Westat (Rockville, MD) and RTI International (Research Triangle Park, NC) to operate the DAWN system and produce publications.

For publications and additional information about DAWN, go to http://www.samhsa.gov/data/DAWN.aspx.