

Press Release

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Health Advisory Related to Use of a Drug Marketed as Bath Salts in Pierce County

River Falls law enforcement and hospital officials are reporting several cases involving dangerous health effects related to use of a drug marketed as “bath salts”. These synthetic cocaine-like drugs are being packaged and sold over the internet, through some convenience stores and head shops as bath salts or plant foods which are not for human consumption. Product names include Vanilla Sky, Ivory Wave, Cloud Nine, Blue Silk, Purple Wave, Ocean Snow and Snow Leopard. Preliminary testing indicates that the active ingredients in many brands contain MDPV (3,4-methylenedioxypropylone) and/or mephedrone.

These substances, which are typically inhaled but can also be injected or ingested, are addictive and have been linked to severe paranoia, hallucinations, and violent or self-destructive behavior. Severe, potentially life threatening health effects may occur such as agitation, disorientation, seizures, faster than normal heart rate, rapid breakdown of muscle tissue, and kidney failure. Medical attention should be sought immediately if these symptoms are observed.

The Pierce County Public Health Department urges the community to be aware of the health hazards associated with this drug. Parents and school officials should be alert to the availability and serious health threat the drug poses to youth in the community. Law enforcement, medical providers, and school officials are asked to notify the Health Department of numbers of cases by calling 715-273-6755.

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