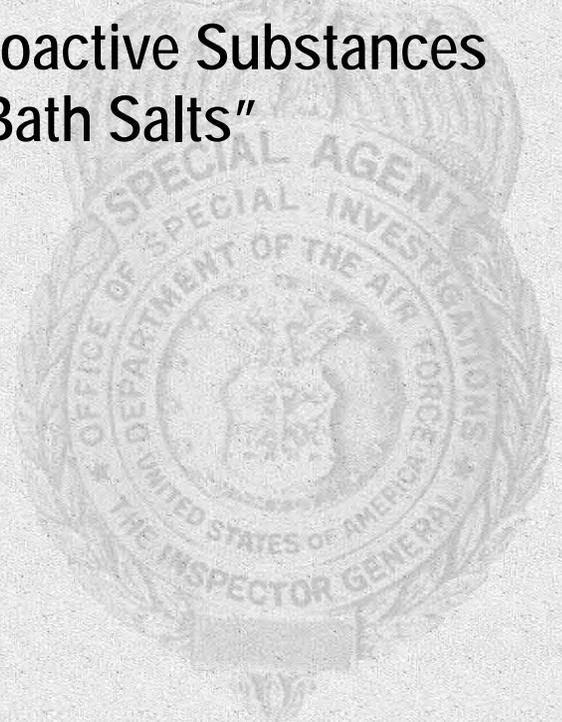




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AFOSI CRIMINAL SPECIAL PRODUCT

(U) Criminal Intelligence Bulletin –
New Unregulated Psychoactive Substances
Marketed as “Bath Salts”



The unauthorized disclosure of classified information may be prosecuted under Section 793 and Section 798, Title 18, USC, and is punishable by fine of not more than \$10,000, imprisonment of not more than 10 years, or both.

(U) Criminal Intelligence Bulletin – New Unregulated Psychoactive Substances Marketed as “Bath Salts”

(U) Introduction

(U) This bulletin was produced to provide situational awareness to agents regarding new psychoactive substances that are being marketed as “bath salts.” These substances appear to have been designed to circumvent existing drug laws and are potentially harmful. Considering that these substances are still relatively new and have not been fully researched, it should be stressed that a significant amount of information presented in this bulletin derives from open sources.

(U) Brief Overview

(U) Unregulated psychoactive substances marketed as “bath salts” are among the latest in a series of legal synthetic drugs that are being offered as alternatives to illegal drugs. Produced as legal substitutes for ecstasy, cocaine and amphetamines, salts are powerful stimulant drugs designed to avoid legal prosecution and are commonly available on the internet and specialty head shops. They can be made up of a variety of unregulated chemical substances and are being sold under a variety of names or brands. Open sources indicate that “bath salts” are becoming increasingly popular due to the perception that they pose seemingly safer alternative to illegal methods of getting “high” and can easily be obtained over the Internet. Concerns regarding the safety of these drugs have prompted many European countries to take measures to stop the imports and selling of these products within their borders. Recent seizures nationwide suggest these powdered salts are making inroads in the US, thus becoming narcotics of potential concern.



“Bath salts” are generally white to light brown hydrophilic and crumbly powder substances with a slight odor

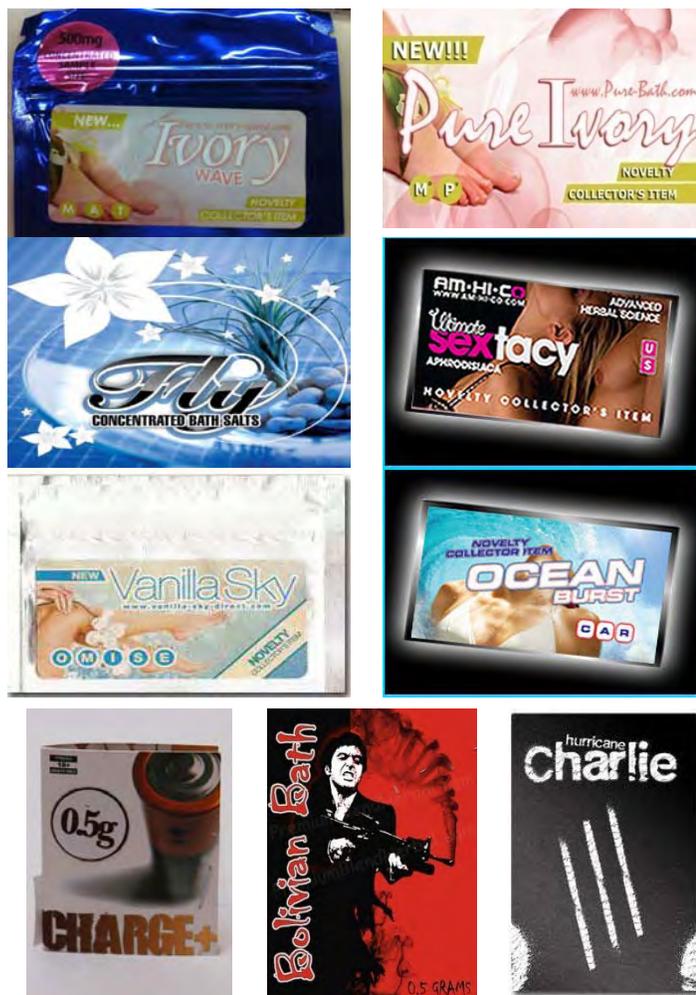
(U) Street/Brand/Common Name(s):

(U) The following is a sample of designer “bath salt” products associated with unregulated psychoactive substances that are potentially harmful:

- Ivory Wave
- Vanilla Sky
- Pure Ivory
- Whack
- Bolivian Bath
- Purple Wave
- Charge+
- Ocean Burst
- Sextacy
- Gloom
- Purple Rain
- Salt
- Fly
- Hurricane Charlie
- Crush

(U) Chemical Make Up:

(U) Although not all brands of bath salts have been tested, those that have – such as Ivory Wave, Vanilla Sky and Whack – suggest that the principal active ingredient in these products is MDPV (Methylenedioxypropylvalerone), a highly potent synthetic cathinone derivative. Following the decision by a number of European governments to include MDPV on a list of controlled substances in mid 2010, it seems that the chemical composition of bath salts has changed. Limited testing in the United Kingdom suggests that post-April 2010 bath salts mainly consisted of 2-DPMP (2-diphenylmethylpiperidine) and DMAA (Dimethylamylamine). 2-DPMP, a substance closely linked to the drug methylphenidate (Ritalin) that exhibits similar pharmacological effects associated with amphetamines, was placed on an import ban in the UK in November 2010. DMAA, a synthetic cathinone derivative related to mephedrone, is often used in the medical field as a nasal decongestant and has been marketed commercially, in conjunction with other substances as a dietary supplement. Cutting agents such as the common local anaesthetic Lidocaine have also been found in addition to the active ingredients.



"Bath salt" products appear under a variety of names or brands

(U) Legal Status:

(U) As of now some of the primary ingredients found in "bath salt" products have been placed on controlled substance lists in several foreign countries. At present, these substances are legal to possess and distribute in the US.

(U) Appearance:

(U) "Bath salts" appear as pure white to light brown substances and are made up of a significantly hydrophilic and crumbly powder with a slight odor. The salts will darken slightly in color if exposed to air for any significant length of time. They are packaged as "soothing bath salts" and marketed under a variety of names such as Ivory Wave, Vanilla Sky and Purple Rain. The packages are labeled concentrated bath salts and are usually sold in 200mg or 500mg packets. "Bath salt" products often contain a note declaring

that are “not for human consumption”, in order to circumvent potential control mechanisms. Often, the list of ingredients on salt products gives no indication of the presence of psychoactive substances.

(U) Methods of Use:

(U) Although “bath salt” products contain no specific directions for use, they are usually snorted but can also be smoked or swallowed.

(U) Desired Effect and User Symptoms:

(U) Considering that these “bath salt” products have not been fully researched, information of their effects and symptoms is limited. Although the precise effects tend to vary on dose and chosen administration route (oral or nasal) the drug has been reportedly used as a social lubricant, weight loss supplement, an aphrodisiac and as party fuel.

(U) The substance produces initial euphoria that can last anywhere from 3 to 4 hours. Users report the initial effects diminish rapidly compelling the user to use the drug again immediately.

(U) Toxicity and Side Effects:

(U) “Bath salt” products are known to produce certain side effects, some of which are quite severe. The following is the list of milder short-term side effects associated with consumption of this drug as reported by available open sources:

- Increased heart rate
- Agitation
- Diminished requirement for sleep
- Lack of appetite
- Increased Alertness and Awareness
- Anxiety
- Fits and delusions
- Nosebleeds

(U) More serious side effects associated with these drugs reportedly 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

(U) In most extreme cases, powdered “bath salt” products have been linked to drug induced deaths. For example, available open sources claim they may have played a role in a:

- August 2010 death of a 35-year old woman in the UK who reportedly died due to the effects caused by long term use.
- August 2010 death of a 24-year-old man in the UK who reportedly jumped from a cliff top after he experienced the severe hallucinations associated with “Ivory Wave”.

(U) The long term effects largely remain unknown.

(U) Primary Users

(U) Open sources report that “bath salts” are mainly popular with younger people between the ages of 14 and 25. However, users of all ages have been reported. In Europe, Australia and New Zealand these substances are mainly associated with party goers; but use is also attributed to belief in the drug’s weight loss and aphrodisiac capabilities.

(U) Guidance

(U) The following Air Force Instruction (AFI) excerpt highlights USAF policy regarding the drug abuse and its impact on USAF mission:

(U) Air Force Instruction 36-3208: Administrative Separation of Airman

(U) 5.54. **Drug Abuse.** Drug abuse is incompatible with military service and airmen who abuse drugs one or more times are subject to discharge for misconduct.

(U) 5.54.1. Drug abuse for purposes of this regulation is illegal, wrongful, or improper use, possession, sale, transfer, or introduction onto a military installation of any drug. This includes improper use of prescription medication. The term drug includes any controlled substance in schedules I, II, III, IV, and V of Title 21 U.S.C., Section 812.

(U) It also includes anabolic/androgenic steroids, and any intoxicating substance, other than alcohol, that is inhaled, injected, consumed, or introduced into the body in any manner for purposes of altering mood or function.

(U) 5.54.2. The presence in the military environment of persons who engage in drug abuse seriously impairs accomplishing the military mission. Members who abuse drugs adversely affect the ability of the Air Force to:

- 5.54.2.1. Maintain discipline, good order, and morale.
- 5.54.2.2. Foster mutual trust and confidence among members.
- 5.54.2.3. Facilitate assignments and worldwide deployment.
- 5.54.2.4. Recruit and retain members.
- 5.54.2.5. Maintain public acceptability of military service.
- 5.54.2.6. Prevent breaches of security.

(U) Conclusion

(U) Available open sources assert that the mental and physical dangers associated with unregulated synthetic substances packaged as “bath salts” have prompted a number of countries (New Zealand, Sweden, Australia, England, Ireland and Denmark) to enact laws prohibiting the sales and import of such products. Nonetheless, powdered “bath salt” products remain legal in the United States. Recent seizures in the US indicate that “Ivory Wave” and its designer equivalents have arrived on our shores. Thus, outreach and education is needed otherwise the Air Force may see a rise in its popularity among its members.

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(U) All headings without classification markings are unclassified.

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