FDNY
FIREGUARD

Bath Salts
Legal, Synthetic Amphetamines

May 31, 2012 (revised)
Why are these drugs called ‘Bath Salts’?

- Collectively called ‘Bath Salts,’ sold as Purple Wave, Vanilla Sky, Bliss, etc.

- May be sold as bath salts, but not the same chemical compound as Epsom Salt (magnesium sulfate) or other legitimate water-soluble therapies.
Bath Salts are used similar to amphetamine
made synthetically
Chemically designed to mirror cathinones
(triggers release of dopamine in user)
Cathinone Origin

• Chewed since the 14th century throughout Middle East and Africa

• an amphetamine-like central nervous system stimulant, but not as potent as amphetamine (less ability to cross the blood-brain barrier.)

• Illegal in Europe, except in Great Britain

• Made a controlled substance in the U.S. in 1993
FIREGUARD

Derived from Catha edulis plant

KHAT
(aka: Arabian tea, qat, gat, qaat, jaad, chat or jimma)

Contains natural cathinone
Mephedrone

- 4-methylephedrone or 4-MMC
- 1929 First synthesized
- Reintroduced in 2003
- Found in illicit “Bath Salts” and other products (2008–present)
FIREGUARD
Synthetic Cathinones

MDPV (Methylenedioxyxypyrovalerone)

- First synthesized in 1968, patented to counteract chronic fatigue.
- Problems of abuse and dependence.
- Found in illicit “Bath Salts” (2009-present)
FIREGUARD

Production and Distribution

Manufactured in bulk in foreign countries
(China, India, and Pakistan)

• Mislabeled to appear as legal products

• Retail price of $40-$60 per gram, bought:
  – Internet
  – Convenience Stores
  – Gas Stations
  – Head Shops
  – Tattoo Parlors
On June 28, 2011, DEA seized 40 kg of the synthetic cathinone (valued at $2 million) from several NYC locations.
FIREGUARD

‘Bath Salts’ Marketing and Packaging

- herbal treatment
- incense
- plant food or fertilizer
- insect repellent
- pond cleaner
- vacuum freshener
Mephedrone (4-methylephedrine or 4-MMC)

- White, crystalline powder with light yellow hue
- Unpleasant odor (vanilla and bleach, stale urine, or electric)

MDPV (Methylenedioxypyrovalerone)

- ‘Dirty’ or ‘tan’ – copper-colored powder (free-base form)
- ‘Pure’ batch – white powder
- European ‘grey’ powder
Methods of Intake

- Ingesting
- Inhaling
- Injecting
- Smoking
- Snorting
- Atomize in water and inhale
- Eye drops or nasal spray
CFR Response Signs and Symptoms

- Foaming at the mouth
- Breathing rapidly
- Extremely rapid heart rate
- Resisting treatment
- Incoherent Speech

- Combative
- Hallucinating
- Anxious and paranoid
- Muscle pain
- Continuous movement
Call to Poison Control: Synthetic Cathinone Reactions

New York City Incidents
(as per NYC Poison Control)

2011 - 27
2012 - 4 (as of March)
Included in 1986 Controlled Substance Analogue Enforcement Act of controlled unregulated substances (for human consumption) that mimic controlled substances.

10/21/2011 U.S. DEA

Prohibited the selling or possessing of Mephedrone, MDPV, and Methylnone or products that contain these chemicals for a one year period.

Similar labeling found on most synthetic cathinone products.
The Future of Bath Salts

Federally Unregulated Stimulants Now in Use

Desoxypipradrol, 3-FMC, Ethylone, Butylone, Flephedrone, Methedrone, ETH-CAT, Metamfepramone, MDPPP

Continues to be sold as plant food, herbal incense, plant fertilizer, insect repellant, pond cleaner, and vacuum fresheners.

Newly marketed as electronic screen cleaners.