

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Jeff Stone

SUBMITTAL DATE: February 20, 2013

SUBJECT: BATH SALT REGULATION AGGRESIVELY INSURING SWIFT ENFORCEMENT (B.R.A.I.S.E.)

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Request representatives from the District Attorney's Office, County Counsel, Mental Health, and Sheriff's Department, work in conjunction with Supervisor Stone, to write an ordinance that compliments and enhances existing state and federal laws to:


1. Prohibit the display, sale, or distribution of any items labeled "bath Salts" or by any other name with any of the chemicals on page 2, or *any* modifications of these chemicals, not limited to but including: salts, analogues, congeners, homologues, or isomers. Violation of this proposed ordinance shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine and up to 6 months in County Jail.
2. A misdemeanor to have in possession any items labeled "bath salts" or by any other name having any of the chemicals listed on page 2 or *any* modifications of these chemicals, not limited to but including: salts, analogues, congeners, homologues, or isomers. Violation of this proposed ordinance shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine and up to 6 months in County Jail.

BACKGROUND:

Many of us consider bath salts to be a crystalline substance dissolved in bathwater to soften or perfume skin. However, "bath salts" have now taken on a "street name" for a family of designer drugs which have similar effects to amphetamines and cocaine.

The street names of these so-called designer drugs include "Ivory Wave", "Purple Wave", "Vanilla Sky", "White lightening", "Charge", "White Knight", "Ivory Wave", "Bliss", "Scarface", "Blizzard", "Energy-1", "Zoom", "Aura", "Ocean Snow", etc., which have generated hundreds of calls to poison control centers and hospitals across the United States. "Bath salts" are chemically related to Cathinones which are derived from the plant khat found in Eastern Africa. Most of these illicit chemicals come from outside the United States.

(Continues on next page, 1 of 5)


JEFF STONE
Supervisor - Third District

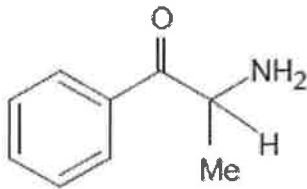
“Bath salts” (modified cathinones) have side effects similar to those seen with methamphetamine and cocaine including:

- Aggression
- Agitation
- Breathing difficulty
- Bruxism (grinding teeth)
- Confusion
- Dizziness
- Extreme anxiety sometimes progressing to violent behavior
- Fits and delusions
- Hallucinations
- Headache
- Hypertension (high blood pressure)
- Increased alertness/awareness
- Increased body temperature, chills, sweating
- Insomnia
- Kidney pain
- Lack of appetite
- Liver failure
- Loss of bowel control
- Muscle spasms
- Muscle tenseness
- Vasoconstriction (narrowing of the blood vessels)
- Nausea, stomach cramps, and digestive problems
- Nosebleeds
- Psychotic delusions
- Pupil dilation
- Renal failure
- Rhabdomyolysis (release of muscle fiber contents [myoglobin] that could lead to kidney problems)
- Severe paranoia
- Suicidal thoughts
- Tachycardia (rapid heartbeat)
- Tinnitus
- Psychotic behavior including **murder**

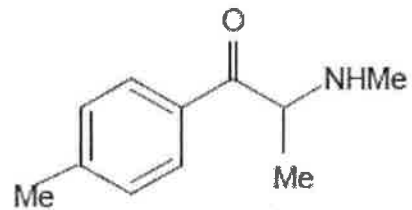
Citing an “imminent threat to public safety”, the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has made illegal the possession and the sale of three chemicals commonly used to make bath salts:

1. Mephedrone
2. MDPV
3. Methyone

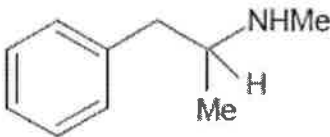
If one looks at the chemical structure of methamphetamine, the lay person can see the similarities in the chemical structure of other drugs which dictates similarities in pharmacological effects. In pharmacology, the study of how drugs work, we call this "structure action relationship". Note that Cathinone is **similar to** mephedrone which is **similar to** Methamphetamine which is **similar to** MDPV which is **similar to** Methylone which is **similar to** Methylone which in turn is **similar to** Ecstasy! The common denominator of these similarities is similar effects to which the small differences chemically can generate a different intensity of pharmacological activity that in many cases may be unpredictable and in some cases, deadly.



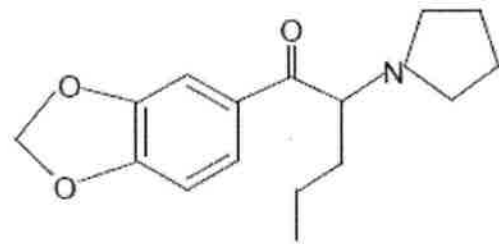
CATHINONE



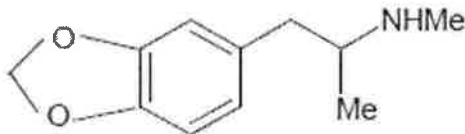
MEPHEDRONE



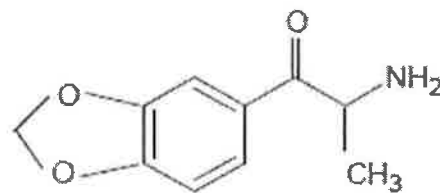
METHAMPHETAMINE



(MDPV)



ECSTASY



METHYLONE

Illicit drug companies (mostly from outside the USA) get around the **DEA** and Food and Drug Administration (**FDA**) by simply modifying the backbone of these drugs and continue to market them innocently as “bath salts” with the labels: “Not For Human Consumption” or “For Novelty Use Only”, with the expressed intent of sparking the fascination with young people curious to experimenting with the euphoric and hallucinogenic effects of these chemicals. There are many instances of bizarre behavior including **death** with the utilization of these dangerous chemicals.

A historical timeline of Cathinone and substituted Cathinone introduction to the world market is as follows:

MDPV was developed in the **1960's**, and has been used for the treatment of chronic fatigue, but caused problems of abuse and dependence.

1969: Boehringer Ingelheim files a patent application for MDPV.

2005: MDPV appears as a recreational drug; first mention on Drugs-Forum.

2007: First **seizure** of MDPV as a recreational drug, by customs officials in the German state of Saxony. The drug had been shipped from **China**.

2008: First **seizure** of MDPV in the United States.

2009: MDPV made **illegal** in Denmark.

2010: MDPV made a **controlled drug** in the UK, Sweden, Germany, Australia and Finland. **First reports of the widespread retail marketing of ‘bath salts’ containing MDPV in the US. The US considers both Mephedrone (July, 2010) and MDPV (December, 2010) “a drug and chemical of concern.”**

2011: MDPV sale and possession are banned in the US states of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington State (as of November 3, 2011), West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming, with legislation being introduced in many other states. The DEA moved to temporarily ban MDPV, Mephedrone and Methyone on October 21, 2011. This ban will last 12 months with the possibility of an additional 6 month extension while the DEA determines whether these 3 synthetic stimulants should be permanently classified as scheduled substances.

2012: Permanent US ban is imminent on few, select chemicals. In **2012** the Congress passed the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act – Synthetic Drugs, which will list MDPV and Mephedrone, but **NOT methyone!**

There are many bizarre effects of bath salts in the literature including:

1. Incident in Florida: Eric Scott was going around neighborhood asking for medical help, and his actions were not quite innocent. Police officers say that the 47 year old had a number of injuries with blood coming out of his hands and nose. Scott repeatedly asked the officers to shoot him. Police Sgt. Haines told ABC News that Eric's reactions were quite unusual after he was handcuffed. Eric Scott allegedly scraped the paint of the police car when he started biting it. He continued to plead the hospital staff and police officers to kill him after being sent to a medical facility. Scott's actions are a reaction to the use of bath salts. Sgt. Haines said that his officers are very familiar with the behavior shown by Scott as they had seen numerous other similar cases. The erratic behavior and mental confusion shown by Scott were same as any person who is using bath salts.
2. A woman from Denver who was caught defacing a multi-million dollar painting attributed her meltdown to the use of bath salts. Carmen Tisch, 36 years old, was caught by a surveillance camera beating a \$30 million painting by the noted Abstract Expressionist Clyfford Still, before urinating on the 10-foot tall, 13-foot wide work of art.
3. Utica, N.Y. - A synthetic drug known as "bath salts" is blamed for some strange behavior over the weekend. Police officers in Utica were called to a city bar Saturday night to check out a woman described as emotionally disturbed. When an officer approached her, she lunged at him and tried to bite his face. Police say she screamed that she wanted to "kill someone and eat them." The woman was taken to a hospital for mental health evaluation.

These represent just a few of hundreds of episodes of "Bath Salts" intoxication. The County of Riverside, by writing this ordinance, will publicize the significant dangers Bath Salts pose and hopefully will minimize the loss of life from these dangerous chemicals purposely being tantalized on our youth.