

PRESS RELEASE: Spice K2 Herbal Incense Danger

The Gila County Sheriff's Office became aware of the first known emergency room visit in Globe this week involving a product called "Spice". The person admitted to smoking "Spice" they had purchased legally from a local business.

"Spice" contains plant material laced with a synthetic chemical which emulate the effects of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), marijuana's most active ingredient. It is sold as herbal incense and contains a warning label "not for human consumption". The chemical contained in Spice is currently not a controlled substance. It is being referred to on the street as "legal marijuana".

This synthetic THC is 100 to 800 times more potent than marijuana and cannot be detected in blood or urine tests. The effects on users experimenting with "Spice" include hallucinations, paranoia, anxiety, vomiting, unconsciousness, tachycardia and seizure like convulsions. Because the chemical in "spice" cannot be detected in lab tests it is difficult to diagnose and provide proper treatment. Information regarding treatment can be obtained from Arizona Poison Control Centers in Phoenix and Tucson.

The synthetic drug found in these herbal incense products have never been tested on humans and are not considered safe. The drug known as JWH-018 is the most common found in these herbal incense products and has the same chemical structure shared with known cancer causing agents.

Sheriff Armer wants the citizens of Gila County to be aware of the dangers associated with this herbal incense. The Sheriff's Office School Resource Officer (SRO) deputies have provided this information to area schools.

For more information contact:

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