



## Colorado Information Analysis Center

# INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

### (U//FOUO) Legal Incense Being Used as a Substitute for Marijuana

(U//FOUO) Specific types of incense, often referred to as 'spice,' are being used as legal substitutes for marijuana. The side-effects of 'spice' are somewhat similar to those of marijuana and potentially dangerous; long-term effects are not yet known.<sup>1</sup> 'Spice' does not show up on drug tests.<sup>2</sup> Law enforcement should be on the lookout for and aware of the following:

- (U//FOUO) Individuals buying large quantities of acetone, an ingredient in some forms of 'spice;'
- (U//FOUO) Individuals purchasing large quantities of 'spice;' as there are reports of individuals buying spice, lacing it with drugs, like ecstasy or speed, and then selling it;<sup>3</sup>
- (U//FOUO) Individuals trafficking 'spice' and related materials across the Colorado-Kansas border as it is illegal in Kansas;<sup>4</sup>
- (U//FOUO) Although entering a house with smoke produced by 'spice' does not pose an immediate danger to law enforcement or first responders, it is possible that individuals smoking 'spice' may become violent.

(U//FOUO) The CIAC is disseminating this bulletin to inform emergency management, law enforcement, and first responders of the ingredients, use, and effects of 'spice.'

(U//FOUO) 'Spice' is an olive-colored plant material that is commonly sold in tobacco, convenience, and 'head' shops as incense. There is no age limit associated with purchasing of 'spice.'<sup>5</sup> Although most packages are labeled "NOT FOR CONSUMPTION,"<sup>6</sup> recent investigations have unveiled that employees at tobacco shops often readily volunteer tips on smoking the incense. Instructions are also available on the Internet.<sup>7</sup> Other names for 'spice' include:<sup>8</sup>

- (U) Silver Spice
- (U) Diamond Spice
- (U) Yukatan Fire Spice
- (U) PEP Spice
- (U) Fire 'n Ice
- (U) K2



(U) Examples of different types of 'spice.'

For further information concerning this bulletin please contact the  
**Colorado Information Analysis Center** at 877-509-2422 or at [ciac@ciac.co.gov](mailto:ciac@ciac.co.gov)  
To report suspicious activity please file a report through our website at [www.ciac.co.gov](http://www.ciac.co.gov)

(U//FOUO) 'Spice' is laced with synthetic cannabinoid mimicking compounds, most notably HU-120, which is between 66-800 times more potent than Tetrahydrocannabinol, (THC) the main ingredient in marijuana. HU-210 is the only synthetic compound in 'spice' that is a controlled substance.<sup>9</sup> Some variants of 'spice' also contain acetone.<sup>10</sup> K2 contains the compound JWH-018 or JWH-073, or both.<sup>11, 12</sup> Researchers who developed the synthetic materials contained in 'spice' have stated publicly that they were not meant for human consumption and, if consumed, these materials could have toxic effects on humans and should not be used as recreational drugs.<sup>13</sup>

(U//FOUO) 'Spice' potentially poses a danger to those who smoke the product and the effects of 'spice' on humans have not been tested. There are no set standards for how much synthetic chemical substances are in each pouch of 'spice,' and ingredient lists on the pouches do not list the synthetic substances. German reports indicate that 'spice' may have adverse effects on the heart, circulation, and the nervous system of users. 'Spice' is potentially addictive.<sup>14</sup>

(U//FOUO) Users of 'spice' exhibit various side effects, some of which are similar to those that users of marijuana exhibit. Specifically, symptoms of 'spice' include:

- (U//FOUO) Paranoia, slurring speech, appearing 'high,' having difficulty keeping balance;<sup>15</sup>
- (U//FOUO) Lightheadedness, drowsiness, and happiness;<sup>16</sup>
- (U) Hallucinations, tremors, seizures, and vomiting;<sup>17</sup>
- (U) Dilated pupils and the appearance of being drunk without the smell of alcohol;<sup>18, 1</sup>
- (U) Immediate sedation after smoking the substance.<sup>19, 2</sup>

(U) Poison centers around the country reported that 'spice' users have exhibited dangerous symptoms including agitation, an extremely fast heartbeat, and elevated blood pressure. Poison centers have received at least 112 calls regarding 'spice' since 2009, however no deaths have been reported.<sup>20</sup>

(U//FOUO) The use of 'spice' is banned throughout most of Europe. Kansas was the first state to ban the use of 'spice' as a substitute to marijuana.<sup>21</sup> Kentucky passed a similar law in April 2010. Alabama, Georgia, Missouri and Tennessee are discussing bans on 'spice,' and several states, including Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York, are considering similar bans.<sup>22</sup>

(U//FOUO) **COLORADO NEXUS:** From January until the end of April 2010, the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Control Center has received 11 reports of Colorado teens being treated in emergency rooms with increased blood pressure and heart rates after smoking K2.<sup>23</sup>

(U) Law enforcement, first responders, and emergency management personnel should direct questions regarding 'spice' to:

---

<sup>1</sup> (U) These symptoms are usually associated with individuals smoking 'spice' laced with acetone.

<sup>2</sup> (U) These symptoms are usually associated with individuals smoking K2. This symptom stands in stark contrast to symptoms of marijuana, which often take 15-20 minutes to take effect. Researchers have determined that K2 affects users this way because "it is instantly active as a cannabinoid receptor(s) agonist."

The Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Control Center  
1-800-222-1222 (emergency)  
[rmpdcinfo@rmpdc.org](mailto:rmpdcinfo@rmpdc.org)  
[www.rmpdc.org](http://www.rmpdc.org)

**(U//FOUO) This report addresses the following CIAC Standing Information Needs: CIAC-SIN-03, CIAC-SIN-16.**

### **INTELLIGENCE GAPS**

- (U//FOUO) What experiences have your organization had with 'spice' or users of 'spice'?
- (U//FOUO) Has your jurisdiction seen a rise in the use of 'spice' among minors?

### **CIAC Customer Satisfaction Survey**

Please take a moment to complete this survey and help evaluate the quality, value, and relevance of our intelligence product. Your response will help us serve you more effectively and efficiently in the future. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. [Click here to take survey.](#)

<sup>1</sup> (U) "Synthetic 'Weed' in Bloom: Legal Compound Mimics Marijuana; Ill Effects Unknown."

<http://www.allbusiness.com/crime-law/controlled-substances-cannabis/14348583-1.html>

<sup>2</sup> (U) "Introduction to Spice." U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

<sup>3</sup> (U) "Kids Getting High off 'New' Spice." <http://www.nbc11news.com/news/headlines/92569904.html?ref=904>

<sup>4</sup> (U) "Kansas Bans Indoor Tobacco Smoking, Outlaws Smoking Spice." <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/mar2010/2010-03-12-091.html>

<sup>5</sup> (U) "Scrutiny for Herb Used by the Young." <http://www.allbusiness.com/crime-law/criminal-offenses-controlled/13584663-1.html>

<sup>6</sup> (U) "Synthetic 'Weed' in Bloom: Legal Compound Mimics Marijuana; Ill Effects Unknown."

<http://www.allbusiness.com/crime-law/controlled-substances-cannabis/14348583-1.html>

<sup>7</sup> (U) "'Fake Marijuana' Landing Colorado Kids in ER." <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/health/23300796/detail.html>

<sup>8</sup> (U) "Introduction to Spice." U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

<sup>9</sup> (U) "Introduction to Spice." U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

<sup>10</sup> (U) "Acetone Used in 'Spice' Production." National Capital Regional Intelligence Center. 10 May 2010.

<sup>11</sup> (U) "K2: A One-Hit Wonder or a Real Cannabis Alternative?"

[http://campaign.constantcontact.com/render?v=00100xHMyT1jj0sY3i43wt-a9EK\\_kVfLzOj011q3xwxAkFbiE9-vArBRVybktqDh6QxsXbPdubVSEMB0E8QpGRZok7cOYGOzKPiHumrIOIgzDafQY\\_sB7ArLG4dj5qnQN2Nq0D6tNPzqF6bFEQW3gIrzbJdCYVqMICKDC0r9LYj47Gqiu5eiT2gxzFxAUQiX673NLxpOyeVk4zZTXHpqnZ9azVAr8njOg2rkU\\_2YwYozh33PpHNAagnH5uZ3BJjc7pgHFgnEz95fOuukY1u1MFYmqdS7ZQfhzqcdylAE\\_TkyEwiLap9sn3N5kqlrYY\\_Zx-zGsyQ9miFGM53fSicV3YDKYrLGyXmyIZspADRBBFOD5GergWDgi4iRrZ7aH7ZMK#LETTER.BLOCK8](http://campaign.constantcontact.com/render?v=00100xHMyT1jj0sY3i43wt-a9EK_kVfLzOj011q3xwxAkFbiE9-vArBRVybktqDh6QxsXbPdubVSEMB0E8QpGRZok7cOYGOzKPiHumrIOIgzDafQY_sB7ArLG4dj5qnQN2Nq0D6tNPzqF6bFEQW3gIrzbJdCYVqMICKDC0r9LYj47Gqiu5eiT2gxzFxAUQiX673NLxpOyeVk4zZTXHpqnZ9azVAr8njOg2rkU_2YwYozh33PpHNAagnH5uZ3BJjc7pgHFgnEz95fOuukY1u1MFYmqdS7ZQfhzqcdylAE_TkyEwiLap9sn3N5kqlrYY_Zx-zGsyQ9miFGM53fSicV3YDKYrLGyXmyIZspADRBBFOD5GergWDgi4iRrZ7aH7ZMK#LETTER.BLOCK8)

<sup>12</sup> (U) "Synthetic 'Weed' in Bloom: Legal Compound Mimics Marijuana; Ill Effects Unknown."

<http://www.allbusiness.com/crime-law/controlled-substances-cannabis/14348583-1.html>

<sup>13</sup> (U) "Synthetic 'Weed' in Bloom: Legal Compound Mimics Marijuana; Ill Effects Unknown."

<http://www.allbusiness.com/crime-law/controlled-substances-cannabis/14348583-1.html>

<sup>14</sup> (U) "Introduction to Spice." U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

<sup>15</sup> (U) "Introduction to Spice." U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

<sup>16</sup> (U) "Introduction to Spice." U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

<sup>17</sup> (U) "Synthetic 'Weed' in Bloom: Legal Compound Mimics Marijuana; Ill Effects Unknown."

<http://www.allbusiness.com/crime-law/controlled-substances-cannabis/14348583-1.html>

<sup>18</sup> (U) "Acetone Used in 'Spice' Production." National Capital Regional Intelligence Center. 10 May 2010.

<sup>19</sup> (U) "K2: A One-Hit Wonder or a Real Cannabis Alternative?"

[http://campaign.constantcontact.com/render?v=001OOxHMyT1jj0sY3i43wt-a9EK\\_kvflzOj01lq3xwxAkFbiE9-vArBRVybktqDh6QxsXbPdbvVSEMB0E8QpGRZok7cOYGOzKPiHumrIOIgzDafQY\\_sB7ArLG4dj5qnQN2Nq0D6tNPzqF6bFEQW3gIrzbJdCYVqMICKDC0r9LYj47Gqiu5eiT2gxzFxAUQiX673NLxpOyeVk4zZTXHpqnZ9azVAr8njOg2rkU\\_2YwYozh33PpHNAagnH5uZ3BJjc7pgHFgnEz95fOuukY1u1MFYmqdS7ZQfhzqcdylAE\\_TkyEwiLap9sn3N5kqulrYY\\_Zx-zGsyQ9miFGM53fSicV3YDKYrLGyXmyIZspADRBBFOD5GergWDgi4iRrZ7aH7ZMK#LETTER.BLOCK8](http://campaign.constantcontact.com/render?v=001OOxHMyT1jj0sY3i43wt-a9EK_kvflzOj01lq3xwxAkFbiE9-vArBRVybktqDh6QxsXbPdbvVSEMB0E8QpGRZok7cOYGOzKPiHumrIOIgzDafQY_sB7ArLG4dj5qnQN2Nq0D6tNPzqF6bFEQW3gIrzbJdCYVqMICKDC0r9LYj47Gqiu5eiT2gxzFxAUQiX673NLxpOyeVk4zZTXHpqnZ9azVAr8njOg2rkU_2YwYozh33PpHNAagnH5uZ3BJjc7pgHFgnEz95fOuukY1u1MFYmqdS7ZQfhzqcdylAE_TkyEwiLap9sn3N5kqulrYY_Zx-zGsyQ9miFGM53fSicV3YDKYrLGyXmyIZspADRBBFOD5GergWDgi4iRrZ7aH7ZMK#LETTER.BLOCK8)

<sup>20</sup> (U) Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center. <http://rmpdc.org/>

<sup>21</sup> (U) "Kansas Bans Indoor Tobacco Smoking, Outlaws Smoking Spice." <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/mar2010/2010-03-12-091.html>

<sup>22</sup> (U) "States Race to Ban Imitation Pot 'K2'." <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/05/24/health/main6514288.shtml>

<sup>23</sup> (U) "'Fake Marijuana' Landing Colorado Kids in ER." <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/health/23300796/detail.html>