AZAPE.ORG
Arizona Association for Property and Evidence

December 2021
https://azape.org/

Lock and Key

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to all new and returning members. I am excited to announce that we are going to have the conference live in June of 2022 and I look forward to re-connecting in person with you. We will be having a live meeting in December in Gilbert, and the information is included in this newsletter. I hope that as many of you can come to it as possible. At the first live meeting back, we had a very small turnout compared to the number of members we have. If possible, please try to make it to this meeting as, I have found, that the more members we have in attendance, the better the meetings are. I know that we are all still in recovery mode from the last year and a half. I personally have seen the highs and lows of what COVID has brought, but I am really looking forward to the future, especially seeing all of you soon.

Sincerely,
C.J. Blackwell

"MANAGEMENT WORKS IN THE SYSTEM; LEADERSHIP WORKS ON THE SYSTEM."

STEPHEN COVEY

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AAPE Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday
December 8th, 2021
@ Gilbert PD
6860 S. Power Rd.
Gilbert, AZ 85297

9:00am Networking
10:00am Meeting Starts

DEA warns of sharp increase in fake prescription pills laced with fentanyl and meth

(CNN) -- The US Drug Enforcement Administration on Monday issued a public safety alert about a sharp increase of fake prescription pills laced with fentanyl and methamphetamine. This is the first such alert issued by the DEA in six years.

According to the agency, more than 9.5 million counterfeit pills have been seized this year, more than the last two years combined. In a news release, the agency said DEA lab tests revealed there has also been a dramatic rise in pills containing at least 2 milligrams of the drug, which is considered a lethal dose.

Many of these drugs are produced by gangs and criminal drug networks and made to look like prescription opioid drugs such as oxycodone or hydrocodone, or stimulants like Adderall. These pills are widely available online and often sold through social media. The DEA said China is supplying chemicals for manufacturing of fentanyl in Mexico, and the vast majority of counterfeit pills brought into the United States are produced in Mexico.

This alert comes at a time when the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported a record number of drug overdose deaths. In 2020, the CDC reported over 93,000 overdose deaths, much of it related to illicit and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.

"The United States is facing an unprecedented crisis of overdose deaths fueled by illegally manufactured fentanyl and methamphetamine," said Anne Milgram, DEA administrator in a statement. "DEA is focusing resources on taking down the violent drug traffickers causing the greatest harm and posing the greatest threat to the safety and health of Americans. Today, we are alerting the public to this danger so that people have the information they need to protect themselves and their children."

BY NADIA KOUNANG, CNN

azfamily.com

Fentanyl-Laced weed confirmed in Connecticut by Health Officials

Fentanyl-laced marijuana has been confirmed in Connecticut after a string of overdoses were reported throughout the past few months. According to a press release from the Connecticut State Department of Public Health, since July, the Office of Emergency Medical Services has reviewed reports of patients with opioid overdose symptoms and required naloxone for revival, where people claimed to have only smoked weed.

The report found 11 cases in July, nine in both August and September, and 10 from Oct. 1st through the 26th across the state. Officials were able to locate and test a sample of the marijuana used by those experiencing opioid overdose symptoms. The Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Scientific Services Forensic Lab found the product obtained by the Plymouth Police Department tested positive for marijuana, fentanyl, and Delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol.

"This is the first lab-confirmed case of marijuana with fentanyl in Connecticut and possibly the first confirmed case in the United States," said DPH Commissioner Manisha Juthani, MD.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, "fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is similar to morphine but is 50 to 100 times more potent." Overdoses related to fentanyl use have grown as the coronavirus pandemic continues. The *New York Times* reported during the 12-month period that ended in April, more than 100,000 Americans died of overdoses, up almost 30 percent from the 78,000 deaths in the prior year and more than doubled since 2015. With 100,000 fatalities, the number is the highest ever for the time frame, totaling more than the toll of car crashes and gun fatalities combined.

"If we had talked a year ago, I would have told you deaths are skyrocketing. But I would not have guessed it would get to this," said Dr. Andrew Kolodny, medical director of the Opioid Policy Research Collaborative at Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management.

On Nov. 17., Dr. Rahul Gupta, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy led a press call with Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra and other Biden-Harris Administration to address the deadly epidemic.

"To change this unprecedented level of drug overdose death, we must continue to pursue the innovative science that addresses the rapidly changing drug supply, addiction crisis, and related harms," said Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, part of the National Institutes of Health.

In October, New Jersey artist Fetty Wap was arrested on federal charges including allegations he and five others were responsible for the trafficking of 100 kilograms of heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and crack. He was released on Nov. 6 on a $500,000 bond.

msn.com link to article

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“Trash Can” drug capsules

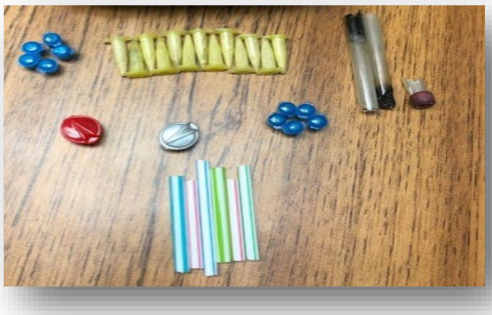
New ‘trash can’ drug capsules are bringing deadly and hidden dangers to the streets. Trash cans are capsules or vials that have been packed with fentanyl, crack cocaine, heroin, and “Tranq”. Recently seized trash cans tested positive for bath salts.

Trash cans come in a variety of colorful or clear containers with hinged lids. The packaging method makes it more dangerous to handle fentanyl. It also poses a threat to those using drugs, children, and law enforcement officers. They are packaged in conversion labs in buildings or homes where traffickers alter or remix drugs they buy in bulk and package for resale. Some capsules are smaller than a penny, while others are the size of a nickel. Breathing in just a miniscule amount of the powder or accidentally touching your skin, can cause an overdose.

Police have found empty vials tossed on the ground which can pose danger if the drug remains in or on the vial. Even using your hands to pry open the lids can potentially spill the contents.

The capsules have been surfacing Maryland for the last year with several incidents of patients experiencing hallucinations and erratic or combative behavior. Since then, they have spread across the state. HIDTA advised lower to mid-level dealers use the packaging for retails on the street. This is not something that a large drug trafficking organization would do.

For full article please follow this link: “Trash Cans”



Link to further information from DEA.gov web site.
An interesting read and worth the information.
READ MORE

Scam Alert— Windows 11 Scams

Microsoft Windows is the most widely used operating system in the world. This October, it is getting an upgrade. Microsoft has announced that starting October 5, compatible systems that run the current version of Windows 10 will be offered a free upgrade to Windows 11.

Cybercriminals are sure to use this announcement in several ways. In the coming weeks, we expect to see update-related phishing emails, fake Windows 11 webpages, and pop-up ads designed to look like a Windows update.

Don't fall for these scams. Follow the tips below to stay safe:

- Always think before you click. Cyber attacks are designed to catch you off guard and trigger you to click impulsively.
- Only trust information from the source. If you want to learn more about the Windows 11 update, go directly to Microsoft's official website or follow their official social media pages.
- If you are prompted to update your work computer, reach out to your administrator or IT department. They can check to make sure the update is legitimate and safe.

CROSS POLICE LINE - DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE - DO NOT CROSS POLIC

MOUTH-HEALTHY RECIPE: MASHED SWEET POTATOES

Ingredients:

2 pounds sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch chunks

¼ to 1/3 cup milk

2 tablespoons salted butter

¼ teaspoon Kosher salt

Directions:

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil.
2. Carefully add sweet potatoes.
3. Reduce heat to medium and cook uncovered for 15 minutes or until sweet potatoes are tender.
4. Drain sweet potatoes in a colander. Shake to remove water.
5. Place sweet potatoes in a large bowl and add ¼ cup milk, butter and salt. Use a potato masher or hand blender to mash until smooth.
6. Add remaining milk if necessary. Serve warm.

Like to "Welcome" Susan Watson from Camp Verde Marshal's Office to the association.

How to Catch a Thief, Evidence Room Edition:

Former evidence custodian, Beth Bennett shared her experience about a detective who was stealing drugs and jewelry from her property room. How did he do it? What were the red flags? What are the lessons learned? And, what steps were taken to minimize theft risk moving forward?

Read More

SUGAR LAND, Texas — Last month, drug detection company DetectaChem announced an "ultra-low sensitivity" fentanyl testing strips for police and other first responders.

MobileDetect Fentanyl Test Strips can detect "nanogram trace amounts" of fentanyl in packaging, in pills and on surfaces, according to DetectaChem. (DetectaChem)

According to DetectaChem, the MobileDetect Fentanyl Test Strips can detect "nanogram trace amounts" of fentanyl in packaging, in pills and on surfaces. The product aims to provide public safety professionals with low-cost, high-sensitivity tools to fight the opioid crisis.

"Fentanyl tests that were effective just a few years ago now have challenges with new analogues and lower limits of detection required for laced pills and powders," said DetectaChem COO, Travis Kisner, in a statement. "We challenged ourselves to develop a new test that would meet the current needs for trace fentanyl detection."

According to the release, the test strips detect trace amounts of fentanyl and similar drugs, including Carfentanil, Acetyl Fentanyl, Butyryl Fentanyl, Remifentanil, Ocfentanil, Sufentanil, p-Fluoro Fentanyl, Furanyl Fentanyl, Valeryl Fentanyl and 3-Methyl Fentanyl.

"We are excited and proud to provide an affordable and highly accurate test for first responders with true trace level fentanyl detection capabilities," Kisner said. "Unfortunately, this crisis is not slowing down, so our best defense is better, safer testing for our men and women on the front line."

For more information about the MobileDetect Fentanyl Test Strips, see here.

Police1.com

IN THE NEWS

Sixty-six criminal cases dismissed due to evidence thefts, many more likely impacted

By Bayley Bischof
Published: Nov. 1, 2021 at 4:13 PM MST
LINCOLN, Neb. (KOLN) - Charges are being dropped, cases dismissed and people could get out of jail.
It all comes down to the $1.2 million worth of drugs Anna Idigima allegedly stole from the Nebraska State Patrol Troop H evidence locker while she was working as an evidence technician.
"The chain of custody is crucial to these cases," Lancaster County Pat Condon said. "We have to establish there was no break in that chain of custody."
Condon has identified 116 cases so far, 66 have been dismissed, 37 warrants are out that could go away and seven cases with pending charges won't be filed.
Lancaster County Public Defender Joe Nigro said several attorneys in his office have gotten that call that their cases are being dropped. He said defendants are thrilled, but most importantly this is justice that needs to be served.
"Think about it if you were a person accused and you're having a trial and they say 'well we have this evidence against you,' well where is it," Nigro said.
He said it's on the state to prove the evidence backs up the charges and if you can't prove evidence was handled properly the case has to be dismissed.
Condon said he agrees, that this is a huge task to take on, but one that needs done. He also said NSP has been cooperative throughout this process.
"They realize the issue this caused and they're doing everything they can to help us out and make sure people are treated fairly and justice is done," Condon said.
Next, Condon's office will be looking at closed cases. This means people could get out of jail or be taken off parole. To determine this, they're going to look back at the 14 years Idigima worked with NSP.
"We'll look at if she had involvement, where she was at the time," Condon said.
Nigro said he'll be working with Condon's office to find a way to make sure those who are already sentenced get justice.
"We need to get the same outcome for them because their cases should also be dismissed," Nigro said.
As for the specific cases impacted, Condon said he can't give any details because once a case is dismissed it's treated like it never happened.

2022 Annual Seminar

June 9th and 10th

Mark your calendars and save the date.

Location: Prescott Resort & Conference Center

1500 AZ-69, Prescott, AZ 86301

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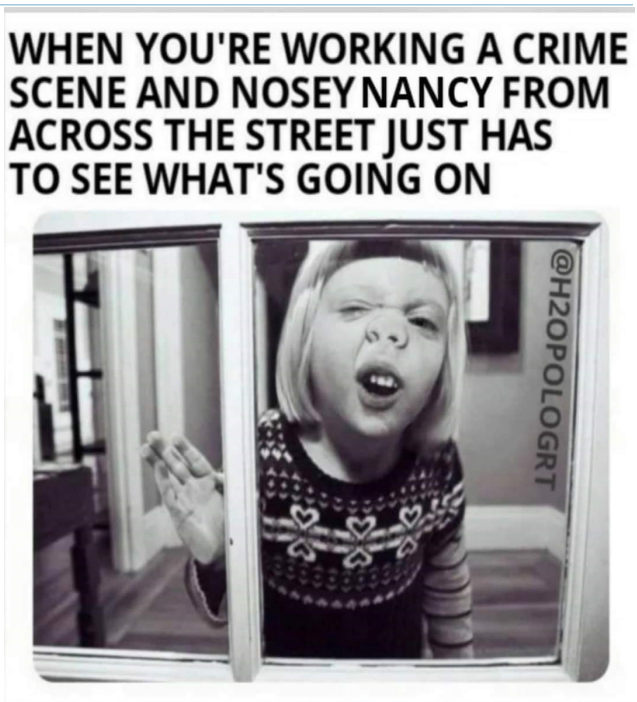
Prescott Resort and Conference Center

Funnies

Got robbed at the Shell gas station today. Called the cops and they asked if I knew who did it, and I said "Yeah, Pump Number 8!"

Have an interesting story or unusual item that was brought in to your warehouse? Don't hold back… Share it…

Send your ideas, comments, photos, and interesting articles to: landknews@gmail.com



Arizona Association for Property and Evidence

The mission of the Arizona Association for Property and Evidence (AAPE) is to provide ways for property and evidence professionals in the State of Arizona to communicate with each other about common issues that affect the safety of property/evidence personnel and the security and integrity of the evidence they manage by promoting professionalism and exchanging information and ideas.

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Did You Know???

In Colonial America, Privately funded "watchmen" policed local communities—some were tasked with catching people escaping from slavery.

The first modern municipal police force was founded in Boston on 1838, quickly followed by New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Chicago and others.

(Time / Boston Police Museum)