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Press Release

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Statement from Idaho Drug Policy Administrator on Dangers of Hallucinogenic Stimulant, Marketed as "Bath Salts"

Boise, Idaho - February 7, 2011 – Office of Drug Policy Administrator Debbie Field, will introduce legislation today banning the sale, use and trafficking of chemical formulas known on the market as “bath salts.” The bill will be heard in the House Judiciary and Rules Committee at 1:30 p.m. today. The legislation has an emergency clause and upon passage and being signed by Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter, will become law immediately.

State, county and city law enforcement officials, including an Idaho State Police forensic chemist, met in the Office of Drug Policy this morning to discuss the dangerous new “legal high” sold under names such as “Ivory Wave,” “Blue Silk,” “Tranquility,” and “White Lightning.” It is **manufactured specifically for the purpose of being snorted, smoked, injected, and even eaten to get high.**

“Make no mistake; these are chemicals that are not used to ‘soak in a relaxing bath’ or for ‘aroma therapy,’” Debbie Field said. Normal household bath salts do not have any of the toxic chemicals that mimic the lethal effects of methamphetamine, ecstasy or cocaine. Hallucinogenic and suicidal thoughts are reported from the drug’s use.

The uses of clever marketing strategies have hidden behind the traditional bath salt to avoid prosecution by stating on the product, “Not for Human Consumption.”

This dangerous, hallucinogenic is being sold in some Idaho smoke and drug paraphernalia shops and on the Internet for approx \$35 for 0.5 milligrams, a price much more expensive and a much smaller quantity than legitimate bath salts sold in many specialty shops and department stores.

The drug of concern is NOT being sold in bath specialty or department stores and is not to be confused.

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The Office of Drug Policy was established in Idaho Code in 2007 and oversees drug abuse prevention and treatment programs.