

Heber City Police Department, Wasatch County Sheriff's Office and Wasatch County School District are jointly issuing a community-wide alert about the synthetic drug known as "pink" or "pinky". Officially, the research drug is known as U-47700 and has reportedly been responsible for several deaths in Utah.

For all involved, the safety of the children is always the top priority. Because of that, continuing efforts to educate the children of the valley are underway in all schools. Administrators in Wasatch County School District schools will continue to warn and educate their students about these and other dangers associated with drug use.

Park City School District announced the deaths of two middle school students, one on Sunday morning and the second one today (Tuesday, September 12, 2016). In addition, the Park City School District and the Park City Police department have released information pertaining to this designer drug, while at the same time pointing out that there is, at this time, no evidence that the deaths of the two boys were drug related. The medical examiner has not yet confirmed a cause of death for the boys. However, in an abundance of caution, the information about the drug was provided to the public.

The information which follows was provided by Park City School District and the Park City Police:

Information released by the Utah Statewide Information & Analysis Center says, "The synthetic opioid... is growing in popularity with recreational drug users throughout the United States...[and] is readily available for purchase on the internet; primarily from Chinese suppliers." Because this drug is so new -- it is not yet illegal to purchase.

Parents should pay close attention to packages received by their

children from purchases made on the internet.

At this point, it is known that the substance is extremely toxic, even in small doses. If you believe you have encountered the drug, contact your local law enforcement agency immediately and do not touch the substance with bare hands.

What Parents should do:

- Talk with your child about the extreme danger involved with ingesting this drug in any dosage and in any form
- Search your child's belongings
- If you think your child may be in possession of U-47700, call local law enforcement immediately
- Request a locker search at school

What to look for:

- White powder (can look like baby powder)
- Can also come in liquid form; watch for dropper bottles and empty nasal inhalers
- Unmarked "stealth" delivery boxes - in some cases, these may have hand-written labels
- Boxes, vials or plastic baggies labeled "Not for Human Consumption" or "For Research Purposes Only"
- Side effects (reported from individuals who have used the substance):
 - Analgnesia (inability to feel pain)
 - Sedation
 - Euphoria
 - Constipation
 - Itching
 - Respiratory depression (occurs when ventilation is inadequate)

Where to look:

- Search belongings (backpacks, purses, containers)
- It has been located in writing pen tubes, gum containers, etc.
- Pay attention to any packages being shipped to your house, especially anything shipped from Asian countries
- Search your child's belongings: it is NOT yet an illegal substance, your child may very well have it in his/her possession without thinking they are doing something dangerous
- Search web browser history; purchases may be made from sites including but not limited to:
 - MrChemistry.com
 - Best-Feel.com
 - BestRCS.com
 - Chinglabs.com
 - TopChems4me.com
 - Buy-RCS.com

The list is long and this is by no means complete, but provides a starting point

BACKGROUND:

In early 2016, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) documented approximately 30 overdose incidents related to U-47700 within the United States. U-47700 had been an emerging threat along the eastern United States for several months. While these are the first confirmed reports of U-47700 in Utah, it is likely the presence of the drug will continue to rise within the state.

One of the challenges posed by this drug is that it is not currently scheduled as a controlled substance in the United States. Deaths have also been reported in Europe, and U-47700 is now illegal in both

Sweden and Finland. It remains unregulated elsewhere, however, and is still easy to find online.

MORE INFORMATION:

The dangers of U-47700 are just coming to light, so not much is known at this point. We will continue to keep you informed as we learn more about this issue. Please watch for upcoming community drug awareness events.