



## Bath Salts: Deadly New Designer Drug

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By ROCIC Publications Specialist Jennifer Adkins

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Marketed with harmless-sounding names such as Ivory Wave, Tranquility, and Blue Silk (among others), bath salts have become the newest trendy street drug. Comparable to methamphetamine, cocaine, and PCP, snorting bath salts can induce violent and aggressive behavior, which make users very dangerous to themselves and law enforcement.

Authorities are caught in a rush to combat this dangerous trend, as bath salts are legal in most states.

Bath salts are essentially drugs that are being labeled “bath salts.” Although they are marketed “not for human consumption,” they are being purchased with the intent to be snorted, injected, or smoked by abusers, sometimes causing extreme reactions such as hallucinations, paranoia, suicidal thoughts, agitation, and increased heart rate. Users have also experienced hypothermia, seizures, and delusions. None of the chemicals found in these salts are contained in legitimate bath salts sold by a reputable company.

Note: For the purpose of this report, the use of the term bath salts refers to the product that abusers are using to get a drug-like high. It does not refer to the legitimate bath salts that a bather would use.

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**Real Bath Salts  
vs. Drug-like Bath Salts**

There is no evidence to suggest that the “bath salts” which induce drug-like behavior contain the chemicals sodium chloride (sea salt) and magnesium sulfate (Epsom salt), which are usually the staple ingredients of true bath salts. According to San Francisco Bath Salt Company, which specializes and sells legitimate bath salts, the creators of the drug-like bath salts simply labeled the products bath salts to manipulate the system.



Bath salts are believed to be a mix of synthetic cocaine and a form of Ecstasy. Its main component, MDPV (3,4-Methylenedioxypyrovalerone), is a synthetic product of the drug pyrovalerone, a Schedule V psychoactive drug. It is a stimulant usually sold in salt form with the appearance of powder, white to tan/brown in color with a slight odor. Bath salts also come in pill form.

In the past, MDPV was sold strictly online and manufactured in China or India. Now it is being sold on the streets and from small retailers as a bath salt product.

Bath salts are generally sold in a 500mg package, which, Major Tommy Ford of Bay County, Miss. Sheriff's Office stated, adds to the problem since people assume 500mg is a normal hit and they overdose. In fact, 10mg or less would be considered a normal hit. This unintentional overdose causes the severe hallucinations of bath salt users, which are being reported in the media.

The drug is sold at head shops, truck stops, adult stores, and online (Ebay) for \$20 to \$60. Outlets include the same type of stores that sold synthetic marijuana products, such as K2 incense.

“It is popular among teenagers, and it is an expensive habit,” stated Det. Wes Rowe of Wythe County, W.Va. Sheriff's Office. “It is almost cheaper to just go buy the real stuff [methamphetamine].”

Besides MDPV, bath salts include the chemicals methylone, mephedrone, methoxymethcathinone, and fluormethcathinone. The high from the drugs has been reported to last as long as three to six days. However, users reported side-effects from the salts, even after no longer consuming it.

**MDPV and Mephedrone**

*MDPV (also known as methylenedioxypyrovalerone) is a psychoactive drug with stimulant properties. It has been sold since 2008 as a research chemical. In 2010, it began being sold as a legal drug alternative in the United States, marketed as bath salts in gas stations and convenience stores with similar marketing as Spice and K2 incense. It is sometimes called PV or PeeVee.*

*Mephedrone (also known as 4-methylmethcathinone or 4-MMC) is a synthetic stimulant manufactured in China and is similar to the cathinone compounds found in the khat plant of eastern Africa. This is why bath salts are also referred to as plant food. Users can swallow, snort, or inject the chemical to produce similar effects to MDMA, amphetamines, and cocaine. It became available for sale on the Internet in 2007. In the U.K., it was sold in a product called bubbles (similar to bath salts). Street names include meow meow, Miaow, and M-Cat.*



### Officer Safety

Training should include “what if” situations. It is beneficial for officers to develop their own “what if” scenarios that are particular to their own patrol areas. Partners should develop and rehearse scenarios that involve their actions as partners, as well as their actions if the situation requires that they act alone.

Sheriff Frank McKeithen of Bay County, Fla. began training his deputies to recognize the symptoms of bath salts abuse. He instructed them to treat the situation as a medical emergency and wait for EMTs and backup deputies to arrive, if at all possible, and create a coordinated plan for subduing the subject.

While under the influence of drugs, subjects will unintentionally violate the law and deputies have to do their best to protect the person. Sheriff McKeithen stated that tasers and pepper spray should be used only as a last resort. Before the emergency order made the chemicals illegal in Florida, law enforcement charged offenders with disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor.

Law enforcement should be familiar with the types of bath salts sold in their jurisdictions, and the effects that the drugs produce (the effects of an overdose and a common high).



*Items confiscated from a bath salt bust, where Centuria, Mo. Police arrested three men who were using bath salts mixed with meth. The mixture is known as Bliss.*

### People on Bath Salts are Violent, Unpredictable

It took 11 Florida law enforcement officers to control a man high on bath salts; the suspect tore the radar unit out of a vehicle with his teeth.

A Tippah County Sheriff’s Deputy was shot and killed while responding to a disturbance call near Ripley, Miss. Authorities are now investigating whether the suspect, now being held on capital murder charges, was high on bath salts.

An Itawamba County, Miss. Deputy was injured while trying to arrest a suspect under the influence of bath salts. The man fought off the deputies because he thought they were devils coming to take him.

It took six deputies and multiple EMTs to sedate a man for safe transport to Bay Medical Center in Bay County, Fla. after he snorted two packages of bath salts. Bath salts have resulted in several uses of the Florida Baker Act, which allows for involuntary examination of an individual when the individual is in a psychotic state.

In Panama City, Fla., a 71-year-old woman was attacked by her 48-year-old daughter high on bath salts and swinging a machete in an attempt to behead her. The daughter was arrested and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

In Wythe County, W.Va., an adult entertainment store was burglarized. The suspects targeted the \$40 packages of Tranquility bath salts sold at the store.

In Fulton, Miss., a man got high on bath salts and cut his face and stomach repeatedly with a skinning knife. The man reported to his local newspaper that he had tried every drug from heroin to crack and was terrified by the effects produced by bath salts.

A physician working in Covington, La. watched his son cut his throat after enduring a delirium onset by snorting, smoking, or injecting bath salts. His son survived, only to shoot himself later when he had visions of army soldiers swarming his house.

### SIDE EFFECTS OF BATH SALTS

Increased heart rate	Kidney failure	Violent rage
Agitation	Seizures	Hot flashes/mild fever
Insomnia	Risk of renal failure	Dysphoria
Lack of appetite	Hallucinations	Loss of bowel control
Increased alertness/awareness	Aggression	Breathing difficulties
Anxiety	Severe paranoia	Cravings similar to crack
Fits and delusions	Panic attacks	Vasoconstriction
Nosebleeds/nose burns	Fluctuation in body temperature	Hypertension
Muscle spasms	Muscle tension/twitches	Chest pain
Blood circulation problems	Jaw grinding	Headache
Increased blood pressure	Dilated pupils	Suicidal thoughts

### Effects of Bath Salts

The effects, a euphoric high with a rush if injected, are similar to cocaine, Ecstasy, or methamphetamine. It acts as an appetite suppressant while giving the user more energy. For these reasons, some high school and college students are now using bath salts because they believe it is beneficial for use at work or studying.

Side effects include muscle tension in the face that usually ends up with jaw and tongue rolling and teeth grinding, dilated pupils, muscle twitches, anxiousness and panic attacks, or a violent rage.

Some teenagers treat bath salts like speed and re-dose too soon in order to get the initial rush. Instead, they find themselves suffering extreme side effects because of the overdose. Other symptoms include hot flashes, mild fever, dysphoria, and lack of body heat, which in some cases could lead to hypothermia.

A single dose can last five hours with the peak occurring an hour after taking it. Re-dosing can extend these effects for days. However, the more the user re-doses, the more difficult the recovery period and the more negative side effects. MDPV is very addictive, and although the trip can be very harsh, the user continues to crave for more.

### Law Enforcement Initiatives to Illegalize Bath Salts

Bath salts are not regulated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and may take years to be prohibited at the federal level. It appears that the states will need to take action to stop the legal sale of the drug. Many lawmakers are now considering banning these types of bath salts in several states.

Recently, six chemicals found in bath salts (particularly mephedrone and MDPV) were placed on Louisiana's and Florida's controlled substances list, making it illegal in those states to sell or manufacture products with these chemicals.

In Louisiana, the chemicals were outlawed by an emergency order after the state's poison center received more than 165 calls in the last three months of 2010 involving exposure to the chemicals. Director Mark Ryan of Louisiana's poison control center reported a lower number of calls regarding bath salts since Louisiana banned their sale. Violators of the new order could face up to 30 years imprisonment.

Subsequently, law enforcement sent letters to store owners alerting them that bath salts were now illegal. Officers also went store-to-store with copies of the order. The Louisiana State Fusion Center has recommended the products be treated as Schedule I narcotics, and each agency follow their normal procedures for Schedule I narcotics disposal.

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal stated that placing the chemicals on Louisiana's controlled substances list "gives our law enforcement officials the tools they need to crack

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### COMMON BRAND NAMES

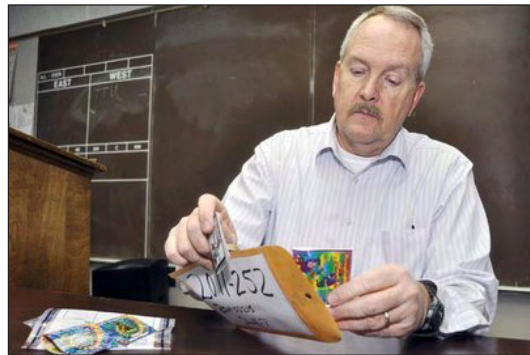
Ivory Wave	Route 69	Purple Wave
Red Dove	Ivory	Ocean Burst
Vanilla Sky	Bubbles	Crush
Bliss	Bubble Love	Lunar Wave
White Lightning	Bounce	Zoom
Hurricane Charlie	Plant Food	Bloom
Cloud 9	Shake n Vac	Dusted
Ocean	Mad Cow	Mint Mania
Charge + (plus)	Drone	Mitseez
Scarface	Snow Leopard	RAZ
White Dove	Ocean Snow	Recharge
White Rush	Pure Ivory	Special Gold
Blue Silk	Whack	Bath Bombs
Blue Diamond	Sextacy	Escobars
Mojo Diamond	Gloom	Zambia
Tranquility	Purple Rain	Euphoria
Bolivian Bath	Fly	

down on the people pushing these drugs. Indeed, our law enforcement officials can immediately take these drugs off the shelf, and at the same time, it's now illegal to possess and use these dangerous chemicals."

On Jan. 26, 2011, Florida banned the sale and possession of MDVP, specifically in the bath salts that go by the names Route 69, White Rush, Bolivian Bath, Vanilla Sky, and others. Attorney General Pam Bondi issued an emergency order, making the sale or possession of these salts illegal. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement has begun notifying smoke shops of the new rule. The order will last 90 days, giving lawmakers time to criminalize the bath salts by April.

Previously, Sheriff McKeithen of Bay Co., Fla. urged retailers to stop selling bath salts in a letter: "From our own personal contact with individuals who have ingested this substance, as well as information provided by local medical personnel, this substance being distributed by your business has a very high potential for abuse, resulting in physical and mental dangers as well as possibly being lethal."

During a forum hosted by Sheriff McKeithen, he stated he was concerned that college-age students coming to Panama City for Spring Break would turn to bath salts for a good time. He stated, "It's almost like the perfect storm I worry about."



*Cookeville, Tenn. Police Major Nathan Honeycutt shows packets of bath salts to local media. A bill was filed with the state legislature that would make it illegal to manufacture, produce, sell, or offer to sell bath salts.*

Florida retailers and those in possession of bath salts who required assistance in their lawful disposal were asked to contact their local law enforcement agencies for assistance.

In February 2011, Mississippi, West Virginia, Kentucky, and North Carolina passed bills through their state legislature to outlaw the chemicals mephedrone and MDPV found in bath salts pending approval by their governors.

Cookeville, Tenn. and Monterey, Tenn. representatives filed bills in the state legislature that would make it a Class A misdemeanor to sell and possess bath salts. The bill has also been introduced in the senate.

In addition, a bill was introduced in the state legislature in Oklahoma to ban bath salts. The Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control stated that it is trying to head off any problems by encouraging the ban of the chemicals mephadrone, methylone, and MDPV.

The use of bath salts has not gained popularity within the Houston, Texas HIDTA. However, with the ban in place in Louisiana an increase in bath salt abuse is expected in the areas where it is still legal.

# WARNING

**The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals  
has added the following chemicals to the  
Controlled Dangerous Substance Act as Schedule I drugs:  
3,4-Methylenedioxymethcathinone (Methylone);  
3,4-Methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV);  
4-Methylmethcathinone (Mephedrone); 4-Methoxymethcathinone;  
4-Fluoromethcathinone; and 3-Fluoromethcathinone.**

*It is now illegal to possess, distribute or manufacture products with these chemicals. Violators could face up to 30 years imprisonment.*

*These chemicals are commonly found in products being marketed as “bath salts” and “plant food” by the brand names Ivory Wave, Ocean, Charge +, White Lightening, Scarface, Hurricane Charlie, Red Dove, Cloud-9 and White Dove.*

*Individuals and retailers with these products should contact their local law enforcement to find out how to safely dispose of these drugs.*

If you or your loved one faces a drug addiction, contact the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals Alcohol/Drug Helpline at 1-877-664-2248.

For additional information, or to report someone who has been exposed to these chemicals, contact the Louisiana Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.



*Flyer given to Louisiana bath salt retailers*



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## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

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### **ALERT: FLORIDA ATTORNEY GENERAL ISSUES EMERGENCY RULE SCHEDULING PSYCHOACTIVE "BATH SALTS"**

January 27, 2011

On January 26, 2011, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi deemed "bath salts" containing psychoactive substances to be a significant threat to health and public safety within the State of Florida. By delegation of authority granted under 893.035(7)(a), F.S., Attorney General Bondi added these compounds to Florida's list of controlled substances as Schedule I drugs which makes the purchase, possession, sale, and/or distribution a felony.

The following is a sample of designer "bath salt" products:

- Ivory Wave
- Vanilla Sky
- Pure Ivory
- White Rush
- Purple Wave
- Blue Silk
- Purple Rain
- Route 69

"Bath salt" products are known to produce certain side effects, some of which are quite severe. The following is the list of side effects associated with consumption of "bath salts" as reported by medical personnel:

- Muscle damage
- Blood circulation problems, including increased blood pressure & sharp increase in body temperature
- Kidney failure
- Seizures
- Hallucinations
- Aggression
- Severe paranoia
- Panic attacks

In some extreme cases, powdered "bath salt" products have been linked to self-mutilation and drug induced deaths to include an increased risk of suicide.

**Retailers and those in possession of psychoactive "bath salts" who require assistance in their lawful disposal are asked to contact their local law enforcement agencies for assistance. Failure to comply with this emergency order can result in a felony arrest as punishable under 775.082, F.S.**

The law enforcement community, as well as health care providers, can confirm the presence of the following chemicals contained within "bath salts" which will produce the above psychoactive effects:

- 3,4 - Methylenedioxymethcathinone (Methylone)
- 3,4 - Methylenedioxypryrovalerone (MDPV)
- 4 - Methylmethcathinone (Mephedrone)
- 3 - Methoxymethcathinone
- 3 - Fluoromethcathinone
- 4 - Fluoromethcathinone

If you would like more information about this brief, or if you have information that you would like to submit regarding "bath salts", please contact the Florida Department of Law Enforcement at (850) 410-7645.



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Rick Scott, Governor  
Pam Bondi, Attorney General  
Jeff Atwater, Chief Financial Officer  
Adam Putnam, Commissioner of Agriculture

February 1, 2011

**FORENSIC TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM**

TO: All Law Enforcement Agencies

FROM: Vickie Gardner, Forensic Services Director 

SUBJECT: Presumptive Tests to Identify "Bath Salts"

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On Wednesday, January 26, 2011, Attorney General Bondi enacted an emergency rule to prohibit the sale, distribution, purchase or possession of psychoactive substances referred to as "bath salts". In an effort to assist your agency in identifying these substances, we want to provide you with information that may assist your narcotics unit regarding field testing of these samples. Below are reagents that are readily available and how "bath salts" will react.

**Sodium Nitroprusside Reagent:** MDPV, Mephedrone, Methylone, 4-fluoro (AKA Flephedrone), 3-fluoro (aka 3-FMC), and 3-methoxymethcathinone (those listed in the emergency rule) all turn blue-purple with Sodium Nitroprusside, which is also a test commonly used for methamphetamines.

**Marquis Reagent:** MDPV also turns bright yellow when tested using Marquis Reagent. The only other drug we are aware of that turns yellow in Marquis is diphenhydramine, which is an antihistamine used to treat allergies. It's found in Benadryl and similar products. It is, of course, not controlled by Chapter 893, F.S.

**Scott's Reagent:** MDPV also turns blue with cobalt thiocyanate (AKA Scott's Reagent). Many drugs turn blue with Scott's, including but not limited to Cocaine, Methadone, Ketamine, procaine, and lidocaine.

Many of the vendors currently supplying your agency with Scott's Reagent and Marquis Reagent kits also have Sodium Nitroprusside Reagent kits available for purchase. The laboratory will accept submission of "bath salts" regardless of any presumptive field testing performed in order to identify any controlled substances present.

Please note that as more information is developed with regard to presumptive field testing of these chemicals, FDLE will provide updates that may be of further assistance.

Please call your regional laboratory Forensic Chief with any questions or concerns.

*FDLE memo to law enforcement on presumptive tests to identify bath salts*

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**DISSEMINATION RESTRICTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**



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OFFICE OF THE  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL of FLORIDA**  
**PAM BONDI**



Attorney General Pam Bondi News Release  
January 26, 2011 en Español Print Version  
Media Contact: Jennifer Krell Davis  
Phone: (850) 245-0150

**Attorney General Bondi Files Emergency Rule Banning the Dangerous Synthetic Drug  
Marketed as "Bath Salts"**

Tallahassee, FL – Attorney General Pam Bondi joined FDLE Commissioner Gerald Bailey and Bay County Sheriff Frank McKeithen and other law enforcement officials, as well as legislative leaders, to announce the filing of an emergency rule that will add substances containing MDPV (Methylenedioxypyrovalerone), commonly known as “bath salts” to the schedule of controlled substances.

“Due to the violent nature of the side effects involved in taking these drugs, the emergency rule will provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to take this dangerous substance off the shelves and protect the abusers from themselves as well as others,” said Attorney General Bondi. “These are dangerous drugs that should not be confused with any type of common bath product.”

Common street names for this drug include: Vanilla Sky, Ivory Wave, Ocean Burst and Bolivian Bath. The substance is usually snorted although it can be smoked or swallowed. Reported side effects of MDPV include: increased heart rate, nosebleeds, hallucinations, severe paranoia, seizures, and kidney failure.

“This rule will stop availability and stop access to these highly potent substances. Florida law enforcement appreciates the quick action taken to halt the use of these products before they become even more prevalent in our communities,” said Commissioner Bailey.

A copy of the rule can be obtained on the FDLE Web site.

*Press Release from the Florida Attorney General*

## **Bath Salt Distribution Center**

Because of the high number of calls, Louisiana has asked the federal DEA to investigate whether their state is a national distribution center for the drugs.

However, in an online forum for law enforcement, officers have listed Memphis, Tenn. as the epicenter of bath salt distribution. In addition, youths age 18-21 are reporting to open-reporting news sources that with the crackdown in Louisiana, bath salt users are heading north to Memphis.

The official report of Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi (which outlawed bath salts for 90 days through an emergency order) reported that an Internet search on popular buy/sale Web sites revealed New York, Utah, and Alaska as additional distributors within the United States.

*Bath salts can be purchased at gas stations, head shops, or convenience stores.*

*Online sources offering these products include:*

*www.alibab.com  
www.salviasociety.org  
www.alibongo.com  
www.spike99.com  
chargepowder.webs.com.*

## Who uses Bath Salts?

Most states list teenagers as the main users of bath salts. The Florida Poison Control Center reported that the majority of the calls concerning bath salts were being placed by individuals 16 to 20 years of age.

In addition, according to Sheriff Chris Dickinson of Itawamba County, Miss., meth addicts are also primary consumers of bath salts and can be very dangerous when high on the drugs. Sheriff Dickinson reported 30 encounters with bath salt users within two months. The bath salt problem grew in Itawamba County after a Mississippi law began restricting the sale of pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient in making methamphetamine.

At least 25 states have received calls about exposure, but it seems to be most popular in the South. Since the end of September 2010, the Louisiana Poison Control Center has received 165 calls from people in crisis after using bath salts, representing 57 percent of the calls recorded nationwide. In addition, 85 percent of those calls were from emergency room physicians or first responders. Florida followed with 38 calls and Kentucky with 23. Next in line were Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah.

U.S. poison centers in 25 states received 117 calls regarding bath salts during the first two weeks of 2011. Louisiana accounted for 48 percent of the calls.

## Why are Bath Salts Legal?

Bath salts are part of a new fad of designer drugs, a term used to describe drugs that are created (or marketed) to avoid existing drug laws. The molecular structures of existing drugs are modified, or drugs with entirely different chemical structures are found that produce similar effects to illegal drugs.

Historically (dating from the 1920s) designer drugs have been opioids or hallucinogens. In fact, some designer drugs are already illegalized under the Controlled Substances Act, including MDMA (Ecstasy) and two relatives, as well as 11 versions of synthetic heroin.



*Ad for bath salt samplers, including Bolivian Bath, Pure Ivory, or Pure XTC, from the Premium Blend Herbal Web site.*

Starting in 2005, the term has expanded to include stimulants such as geranamine, mephedrone, MDPV, desoxypipradol, methylmethaqualone, and others.

For example, MDPV is the designer drug of Pyrovalene. The chemical structure for Pyrovalene (the known drug or parent drug) was altered and produced MDPV (the designer drug also known as analogues or children) which has similar effects to Pyrovalene but is legal.

Due to the recent development of many of these designer drugs, laws banning or regulating their use have not been developed yet. In fact, some designer drugs only appear after a legislative action, in order to replace the similar compound that was banned.

State laws banning items such as bath salts are difficult to enforce. For instance, within days of banning fake pot in summer 2010, slightly altered products were on the market, which were made from different chemicals to avoid the law.

An herbal shop owner in Florida stated that the number of different plants that can be blended together to reach mood-changing and relaxing effects is almost endless. The herbal blends they sell are synthetic cannabinoids, which means the chemistry has been altered to control the effects, thus making them legal for sale and consumption.

**For more information, check out our online interactive report found on the ROCIC Publications Web page.**

## **Sources of Information**

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- Check 21: New Banking Technology Challenges Law Enforcement
- ICE: Crystal Methamphetamine: Imported High-Purity Meth Replacing Domestic Lab Output
- Meth Lab Safety Issues: How to Protect Law Enforcement, First Responders, and the General Public from the Dangers of Clandestine Methamphetamine Labs
- CERT (Community Emergency Response Team): Civilian Support for First Responders
- Taxing Illegal Drugs: States Attacking Profit Motive of Dealers
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- Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13): Violent Street Gang with Military Background
- Indicators of Terrorist Activity: Stopping the Next Attack in the Planning Stages
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- DXM: Teens Abusing Cough Medicine Risk Brain Damage, Death
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- Mail Center Security
- Safety & Security for Electrical Infrastructure: Protecting Law Enforcement and the Public in Emergency Situations
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- Eco Terrorism: Extremists Pose Domestic Threat
- Cold Case Units: Turning up the Heat
- Gypsies and Travelers
- User's Guide to ATIX: Automated Trusted Information Exchange

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- Specialized training and membership & information exchange
- Use of investigative funds
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