

**Goffstown School District
Goffstown Police Department
Goffstown Fire Department**



Media Release

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For Immediate Release

Contact:

Brian Balke, Superintendent of Schools

Chief Rob Browne, Goffstown Police Department

Chief Rich O'Brien, Goffstown Fire Department

Date: June 10, 2014

It is with great concern that we notify parents of Goffstown High School students of an emerging pattern we have observed. Over the past two weeks, GHS has experienced two occasions of students suspected of using 'synthetic marijuana' and needing acute medical care as a result. Synthetic marijuana (typically packaged as incense) has created a new, very concerning challenge for communities across the country.

"Parents are largely unaware of this new problem; kids can buy these dangerous, unregulated substances at the local convenience store." remarked Brian Balke, Superintendent of Schools.

A recent cover story from Time Magazine highlights the concerns. Eliza Gray states in the article, "The most complicated drug problem in the world right now isn't meth or cocaine or heroin. It is synthetic drugs, also known as legal highs or designer drugs." An abridged version of the Time Magazine article can be found at:

<http://time.com/57167/rise-of-fake-pot/>. In the article Gray goes on to say that these substances are, "Sold openly in stores, popular with kids and unpredictably dangerous."

Adolescents are using e-cigarettes, so-called 'hookah pens', and electronic vaporizers that charge through a USB port to ingest these substances. There are also versions of 'synthetic marijuana' that come in liquid forms.

As always, we ask you to be aware and talk with your child about these dangers.

Chief Rob Browne stated, “The legality of the ‘hookah pen’ should not fool parents nor users into dismissing the inherent risks of their use. Whether the pens contain the usual high concentrations of tobacco or any of the synthetic marijuana products that are unfortunately still being sold in retail, the possibility of users getting sick and requiring medical attention is a huge concern. We urge parents to have a discussion on this matter with their school age children and also to educate themselves of the dangers of the use of hookah and synthetic marijuana so they can be vigilant of the children’s activities.”

The following (non-copyrighted) photos are provided for your information and recognition awareness.



The Goffstown Fire Department warns, in addition to the obvious inhalation hazards, there have been recent reports of e-cigarettes, so-called ‘hooka pens’ and electronic vaporizers exploding or catching fire. Most of the problems occurred when the electronic cigarettes are being over-charged. Some versions of the e-cigarettes don’t have the ability to switch off once their battery is fully charged. The lithium-ion batteries of some e-cigarettes don’t have over-heat protection, and continue taking on heat until the coil inside the battery explodes. At its worst, this can cause direct injury and burns to people. Another consequence is that a fire can be started by sparks or hot matter touching nearby clothing, carpets, paper or anything combustible.

I am not going to give the links for the photos but am keeping for my reference on this draft copy.

These photos are not

Photo found at:

<http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rect=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&docid=ES2g6lTiMIXWcM&tbnid=3Wcv4SjyIH37CM:&ved=0CAQQjB0&url=http%3A%2F%2Fvaporcodirect.com%2Fproduct%2Fvapor-co-hookah-pen%2F&ei=KBqXU6OBMcjqoATy4YKoAQ&psig=AFQjCNFUNNOdt5dnv6Epb64ytPrGS2eGhQ&ust=1402497866834951>

Photo found at:

http://blogs.phoenixnewtimes.com/valleyfever/2010/02/synthetic_marijuana_six_things.php