



Washington/Baltimore HIDTA Investigative Support Center
Information Bulletin

**Unidentified Dangerous Substance Distributed in
“Trascan” Containers Tied to
ED Patients with Combative Behavior**

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Information Type: Drug - General

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Synopsis:

Several patients in a Baltimore City hospital exhibited erratic and combative behavior after ingesting an unknown substance distributed in “trashcan” containers.

Details:

The Behavioral Health Administration of the Maryland Department of Health (BHA MDH) shared information about incidents on August 19, 2020 at the Emergency Department at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore, MD involving irregular, at times combative, patient behavior after ingesting an unidentified dangerous substance referred to as “Trash Can.” Patients presented with “excited delirium,” hallucinations, erratic behavior and were combative. Five or six patients were reported to have taken “Trash Can,” described as a clear capsule with a hinge that was being distributed in the area as free samples. Users reported to have opened the capsule and ingested or snorted the contents. All of the patients had hallucinations and were combative requiring massive doses of sedatives. Some patients reported that they have used what they thought to be a synthetic drug.

- Patient 1: 39 years old, male: discharged after five hours, required Haldol and 6 mg Ativan.
- Patient 2: 52 years old, male: was admitted “out of it.” Required Benadryl, Haldol PO and IM, midazolam IV and IM x 2. No tachycardia (heart rhythm disorder) or hypertension (high blood pressure), was writhing at times.
- Patient 3: female, age unknown: was admitted for at least nine hours, combative, was given Naloxone by EMS due to shallow breathing, has history of substance abuse, was given Haldol 7.5 mg total + 2 mg Ativan, had to be restrained and woke up with no memory of the incident.
- Patient 4: 53 years old, female: admitted for 3 hours, vitals were stable, was given Haldol, Benadryl, Ativan, and IV fluids.



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Suspected drug was reported to be a synthetic cannabinoid or cathinone; however these drugs often cause tachycardia or high blood pressure.

Secondary suspected drug: PCP or similar drugs. Additional comments from the MDH point to an uptick in PCP-related visits at the UM Capital Region Medical Center in Prince George's County, MD.

No specific treatment was recommended.

Analyst Note:

The “trashcan” drug packaging type has made appearance in several counties in Maryland throughout 2019-2020 containing a variety of drugs. In 2019, the Heroin Coordinator Intelligence Sharing Network reported seizures of plastic “trashcan” containers with suspected heroin in southern Maryland and in the Eastern Shore region. During 2020, several locations reported seizures of green, florescent yellow, pink, blue, clear, and orange containers with a hinged lid. In the north-east part of Maryland, seized “trashcans” contained suspected heroin, crack cocaine, and possibly a mixture of fentanyl and tranquilizer Xylazine, often referred to as “Tranq.” Most recent seizures revealed “trashcans” with substance that tested positive for Eutylone, also known as “bath salts.” Several drug samples submitted to the Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division during 2020 in similar containers tested positive for Eutylone. The Carroll County Health Department reported a patient with a history of multiple overdose incidents, who exhibited behavior similar to the symptoms reported in the Union Memorial hospital. The substance has not been confirmed.

Image 1: “Trashcan” Drug Packaging Type Seized in Maryland in 2019 – 2020.





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Please contact I/A Natasha Butler with any additional information at nbutler@wb.hidta.org.

Source(s):

- Maryland Heroin Coordinator Intelligence Sharing Network.
- Maryland Department of Health.
- MSP Forensic Sciences Division.