

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

Issued: June 12, 2018 For: Washington State Hospital Emergency Departments & Public Health Departments

Questions, contact WAPC, 24/7/365, by calling: 1 (800) 222-1222.

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Paradiso Electronic Dance Music Festival June 15th and June 16th: Best Practices in Treating Stimulant Drugs of Abuse

The Gorge Amphitheater in George, Washington, is hosting Paradiso, a large Electronic Dance Music (EDM) festival, June 15-16, 2018. Fatal drug overdoses have occurred at or around Electronic Dance Music events, despite a strict no-use policy from event organizers.

What types of synthetic drugs have been seen at past EDM events?

Synthetic drugs of abuse such as Ecstasy (MDMA), Molly, Bath Salts, and other hallucinogenic amphetamines remain popular at EDM events. These drugs have similar sympathomimetic, stimulant effects, and symptoms may be severe. These drugs are rarely pure and are often adulterated with other drugs of abuse (cocaine, levamisole) or prescription drugs.

These drugs may be taken orally, snorted, injected or inserted rectally.

<p>Onset 2-to-60 minutes</p> <p>Duration Hours-to-days</p>	<p>Clinical Effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tachycardia -Hyperthermia -Hypertension -Anxiety/agitation -Hallucinations -Seizures -Coma -Death 	<p>Serotonin Syndrome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Altered mental status -Muscle rigidity -Myoclonus -Hyperthermia -Rhabdomyolysis -Renal Failure 	<p>Labs and Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Core temperature -Electrolytes -SCr & BUN -Urine drug screen -Blood alcohol
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Treatment: preventing deaths from hyperthermia.

1. Any patient with significantly altered mental status or seizure requires a core temperature measurement, either esophageal (if intubated) or rectal.
2. Extra clothing should be removed and ice packs placed on the patient en route to the hospital.
3. Pre-hospital notification of hyperthermia should be relayed to medical facilities so they can set up cooling measures (ice bath) prior to arrival of patient to the ED.
4. Any patient with a core temperature greater than 105°F (41°C) should be cooled aggressively, including:
 - Ice bath, chilled saline IV fluids.
 - Benzodiazepines for agitation, seizures or serotonin effects. May require higher doses than normal to control agitation and sympathomimetic toxicity.
5. Benzodiazepine therapy is indicated for sympathomimetic and serotonin toxicity.

Always here to help, 24/7/365, by calling: 1 (800) 222-1222. All calls are free and confidential.