

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
POLICE DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE

By Sgt. Michael Reagle
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Release #1:

The Garden City Police Department has been seeing a steady increase in the amount of situations where pre-teens and teenagers in our community have been abusing inhalants. The practice is commonly referred to as “huffing,” and can have a dramatic effect on how children behave. The practice of huffing involves individuals inhaling the fumes of a volatile chemical or substance as a means of becoming intoxicated. Some of the primary items we are seeing used in Garden City include: computer keyboard cleaner (aerosol sprays), dessert topping spray (canned whipped cream) and spray paint. Other items that could be used are various types of glues, various items in aerosol cans, nail polish remover, paint thinner, cigar lighter fluid, gasoline, spot remover, dry cleaning fluid, cooking sprays, butane, propane, and helium.

Parents should understand the very real dangers of their children using inhalants to become intoxicated. Users of inhalants can have a feeling of less inhibition, lose consciousness, lightheadedness, hallucinations, headaches, nausea, muscle spasms, liver, lung, and kidney problems, brain damage, as well as suffer from Sudden Sniffing Death Syndrome. Sudden Sniffing Death Syndrome can affect a person who frequently uses inhalants, or is using inhalants for the first time. Some of the signs your child may be using inhalants include: hidden computer keyboard cleaner, spray paint or dessert topping containers, slurred speech, chemical odors on their breath or clothes, stains on face, hands or clothing, loss of appetite, red or runny nose, sores or rashes around the nose or mouth, drunk appearance without indications of alcohol use, anxiety, and irritability.

We are encouraging parents to learn more about this issue and to talk to their children about the dangers associated with inhalant use. More information can be found on Web sites such as inhalants.com and stopinhalantabuse.org, or by calling the Garden City Police Department at 276-1300.

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