

FENTANYL AND OTHER SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRST RESPONDERS

What you need to know:

- Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids can be present in a variety of forms (e.g., powder, tablets, capsules, liquids, in needles and rocks).
- Inhalation of airborne powder is most likely to lead to harmful effects, but is less likely to occur than skin contact.
- Incidental skin contact may occur during daily activities but is not expected to lead to harmful effects if the contaminated skin is promptly washed off with soap and water.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) is effective in protecting you from exposure. Follow your agency's policies and procedures when responding to an incident.
- Slow breathing or no breathing, drowsiness or unresponsiveness, blue/gray lips, skin and fingernails, and constricted or pinpoint pupils are the specific signs consistent with fentanyl/opioids intoxication.
- Narcan (naloxone) is an effective medication that rapidly reverses the effects of fentanyl/opioids. Repeated doses of naloxone may be needed to reverse the effects depending on the dose of fentanyl.
- Police animals are also susceptible to the effects of fentanyl/opioids. Protect them by not letting them come into contact with substances.

WHEN RESPONDING TO A SUSPECTED OVERDOSE

DO	<i>DON'T</i>
Activate emergency response system immediately	<i>Delay medical assistance</i>
A quick scan of the scene to make sure everything is safe	<i>Touch the person without assessing the scene</i>
Put on PPE. Gloves, eye protection, face shield or respirator	<i>Touch or handle substances, needles, or paraphernalia or try to collect evidence without PPE</i>
Try to stimulate the person with a sternal rub or gentle shaking	<i>Forcefully shake the person</i>

DO	<i>DON'T</i>
Administer naloxone as soon as possible	<i>Try to revive the person with other drugs or coffee</i>
Move the unresponsive person onto their side in the “Recovery Position”	<i>Lay the unresponsive person flat on their back</i>
Stay with the person and administer additional doses of naloxone as needed	<i>Leave the person alone</i>
Give medical personnel as much information as possible	<i>Keep information from assisting law enforcement, investigators, or medical personnel</i>
Wash hands with soap and water	<i>Use hand sanitizer or alcohol to wash hands</i>
Notify fellow responders if you suspect you may have been exposed to the substance	<i>Keep possible exposure to yourself.</i>
Keep police animals (K-9s) out of harm’s way	<i>Allow the animals to come into contact with substances</i>
Complete any forms or paperwork related to the incident	<i>Leave the scene without proper documentation. (This will serve as a protection to you as well as provide information of the incident)</i>