



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

BILL BROWN, SHERIFF- CORONER
Professional Results In Daily Effort

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Sworn Personnel and Supervisors

Carfentanil and Fentanyl Safety Recommendations

The Training Staff has recently been informed of a new synthetic opioid which is similar to Fentanyl but twice as strong and used in large animals like horses or elephants in zoos across America. According to DEA, Carfentanil is a synthetic opioid, white, powdery and looks like cocaine or heroin. It's 100 times more potent than Fentanyl and trace amounts can kill you. Carfentanil is sold in the illegal drug trade and often mixed into a pill to look like Oxycontin or Xanax. Carfentanil poses a particular high risk to first responders and law enforcement personnel who touch or inhale the substance accidentally and the consequences could be deadly.

Safety Recommendations for First Responders – Fentanyl/Carfentanil.

****This document provides scientific, evidence-based
recommendations to protect the First Responder from exposure****

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Fentanyl/Carfentanil can be present in a variety of forms (powder, pills, capsules, solutions and rocks).
- Inhalation of airborne powder is MOST LIKELY to lead to harmful effects, but 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 water.
- Personal Protective Equipment is effective in protecting first responders from exposure.

- Slow breathing or no breathing, drowsiness or unresponsiveness, and constricted or pinpoint pupils are the specific signs consistent with Fentanyl/Carfentanil intoxication.
- Naloxone is an effective medication that rapidly reverses the effects of Fentanyl/Carfentanil intoxication.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM EXPOSURE

- Wear GLOVES when the presence of Fentanyl/Carfentanil is suspected.
- AVOID actions that may cause the powder to become airborne.
- Use a properly-fitted respirator (mask) and eye protection.
- Minimize skin contact where small amounts of suspected Fentanyl/Carfentanil are visible or may become airborne.
- If the scene contains large amounts of suspected Fentanyl/Carfentanil (e.g. distribution/storage facility, clandestine lab, pill milling operation, gross contamination) notify Dispatch and additional First Responders. Move personnel, suspect(s), witness(s) and civilian(s) to a safe location and notify **SIB DETECTIVES IMMEDIATELY**.

WHEN EXPOSURE OCCURS

- Prevent further contamination and notify other first responders and dispatch.
- Do not touch your eyes, mouth, nose or any skin after touching any potentially contaminated surface.
- Wash skin thoroughly with cool water and soap. **DO NOT** use hand sanitizers as they may enhance absorption.
- If First Responders exhibits:
 - Slow Breathing or No Breathing
 - Drowsiness or Unresponsiveness
 - Constricted or Pinpoint Pupils
- Move away from source of exposure and call EMS.
- Administer Naloxone according to Department Policy.
- If Naloxone is not available or ineffective, begin rescue breathing or CPR as a life saving measure until EMS arrives. Use standard basic life support safety precautions to help mitigate exposure risks.

In conclusion, assume that any white powder could be Fentanyl or any of its analogues. **DO NOT** open packaged narcotics. **DO NOT Field**

Test (NIK Kit) unknown narcotic substances. Field Testing Fentanyl or its analogues is highly discouraged due to an increased risk of exposure to law enforcement performing field testing. Never handle Fentanyl or its analogues without the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment. First Responders should always use universal precautions when approaching unknown substances and overdose victims.

Stay safe and take care of one another.

Respectfully,

Sheriff's Training Cadre
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