Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid drug similar to morphine and heroin but 50 - 100 times more potent. Carfentanil, another powerful synthetic opioid, is considered 100 times more potent than fentanyl and 5,000 to 10,000 more potent than morphine.

Synthetic opioids are extremely dangerous, even in very small doses. Emergency responders, including canines used to detect drugs, may develop signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose if exposed to synthetic opioids. First responders finding situations with large quantities of drugs, large quantities of drug paraphernalia, or indications of drug handling or processing should follow local guidelines.

First responders attempting to revive someone suspected of an opioid overdose should use the following recommendations:

1. **STAY SAFE & ASSESS RISK**
   - Perform a street-level risk assessment before entering a scene. Increased risk includes substances or items that look suspicious, such as vials, exposed needles, or powders.

2. **NORMAL OPERATIONAL RISK**
   - For Normal Operational Risk, which are scenes with no or limited clues of drug activity, wear nitrile gloves.

3. **ELEVATED OPERATIONAL RISK**
   - Elevated Operational Risk includes scenes where there is a reasonable potential or confirmation of small amounts of drugs, drug paraphernalia, or drug activity. For these situations, increase PPE to include respiratory and skin protection.

**ADMINISTER NALOXONE (Narcan)**

Provide rescue breathing or CPR and administer naloxone as directed by your medical protocols. Be prepared to administer more than one dose of naloxone. Ensure responder safety. Be prepared to leave the contaminated scene and call law enforcement.
Opioid Response Guidelines for Initial On-Scene Responders

CALL FOR ASSISTANCE

STREET-LEVEL RISK ASSESSMENT
- Type of call and environment
- Behavior of persons, signs and symptoms of overdose present
- Drugs or drug paraphernalia

Elevated Operational Risk
Do Not Proceed without PPE
Don Appropriate PPE:
- N-95 Mask
- Nitrile gloves (2 pairs)
- Safety glasses or goggles
- Water-resistant sleeves
- Access to naloxone
A Buddy System is HIGHLY recommended to ensure safety and for naloxone administration if needed

Normal Operational Risk
Don Appropriate PPE:
- Nitrile Gloves
A Buddy System is recommended to ensure safety and for naloxone administration if needed

If a Change in Situation or Drugs are Found:
- Ensure safety
- Back out of situation
- Call for assistance

Decontamination
- Follow doffing procedure
- Place PPE into plastic container and dispose of properly
- Wash hands with soap and water

Exposures
- Wash affected area(s) with copious amounts of water
- Call for EMS

** NOTE: Never place a contaminated individual in an emergency vehicle until need for decontamination has been evaluated. Follow local procedures or contact Fire & EMS for direction.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a substance use or an addiction-related crisis, call 2-1-1.
Learn more about the regional Doorways at thedoorway.nh.gov.