

# FENTANYL, CARFENTANIL, AND SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS

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.



**Assess risk before entering**



**Normal Operations: Wear nitrile gloves**



**Elevated Risk: Wear appropriate PPE**

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.

# WARNING

FIRST RESPONDERS

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