



TOPIC

Lunchtime
LIVE

LEARNING INTERACTIONS
with VALUED EXPERTS

Protective Strategies for First Responders Exposed to Illicit Substances

Overdose deaths involving fentanyl and fentanyl analogues have raised concerns about the potential for exposure to illicit drugs among child welfare caseworkers and other first-responders (law enforcement officers, fire fighters, and emergency medical services personnel). The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), has issued guidance for protecting first responders from fentanyl and its analogues. This webinar offers an opportunity to interact with national experts from NIOSH while learning about potential risks and protective safety strategies.



KEY POINTS

1. Pharmaceutical fentanyl is a synthetic opioid pain medication and a schedule II prescription drug. Illicitly-made fentanyl is sold illegally for its heroin-like effects and is often mixed with heroin and/or cocaine.
2. Fentanyl is 50-100 times more potent than morphine. Carfentanil, the most potent fentanyl analog detected in the United States, is intended for sedation of large animals and is estimated to have 10,000 times the potency of morphine.
3. The sharpest increase in overdose deaths are related to fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (synthetic opioids).
4. NIOSH has developed safety guidelines for first responders based on their current research from field investigations conducted through their Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) Program.
5. NIOSH is interested in conducting safety evaluations for the field of child welfare.
6. Public children services agencies can partner with occupational health and safety experts and persons with expertise on personal protective equipment and emergency response to consider a job safety analysis that can inform policy.



CHILD WELFARE APPLICATION

Child Welfare system professionals can take steps towards protecting themselves from unintentional occupational exposure to fentanyl and other drugs by developing policies and practices that support work safety around illicit drugs, including:

- Learning how to conduct an assessment of the scene related to fentanyl and other drugs
- Understanding the potential exposure routes for fentanyl and its analogues
- Recognizing the signs and symptoms of opioid exposure
- Knowing when and how to seek medical help
- Incorporating standard safe work practices in their routines including the use of personal protective equipment
- Exploring partnerships that can ensure access to naloxone



LEARN MORE

Webinar Learning Tools

1. [Learning Assessment](#) – Assess your learning and identify areas for improvement. This tool can be used individually or as a team activity.
2. [Individual Learning Guide](#) – Spend some time on self-reflection and application of webinar content.
3. [Team Discussion Guide](#) – Use this guide for conversation with your team applying webinar content to collaborative practice.

Handouts

[Fentanyl Safety Recommendations for First Responders](#)

Resources

Ohio Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO):

[\(2018\) Opioid Policy Guide](#) and [Caseworker Safety Policies](#)

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH):

[Opioids in the Workplace](#) and [Fentanyl: Preventing Occupational Exposure to Emergency Responders](#)

Training

Office of National Drug Control (2018). [Fentanyl: The Real Deal](#)

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (2018). [Prevention of Accidental Exposure to Fentanyl and Other Opioids](#)



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Ohio Substance Abuse Training Gateway

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