



*Kern County*

**SHERIFF**

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**TRAINING BULLETIN**

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## **Processing Fentanyl in Detentions-Decontamination**

### **Background**

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine and its prevalence is increasing. As little as two milligrams-about the size of 5 grains of salt-can cause adverse health effects such as trouble breathing, dizziness, and possible overdose. There has been a drastic increase in exposures in our Detention Facilities. Below are instructions to consider when coming across exposure to Fentanyl.

### **Steps to Follow to Prevent Exposure**

- Always wear nitrile gloves and mask,
- Wear Respirator if powdered drugs are visible,
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth,
- Avoid breaking the skin while cleaning and cover all open wounds.

### **Steps to Take When Exposed**

- Call for medical assistance and Supervisor,
- Wash hands with soap and water,
- Avoid tasks that could cause drugs to go airborne such as moving the narcotics to another location, isolate the narcotics and follow steps below,
- Carefully remove contaminated clothing, place it in labeled bags, and keep it isolated, from other laundry to prevent cross-contamination,
- Wash all clothing that may have come into contact with illicit drugs.

### **If You Can Identify the Suspected Item:**

- Double K-Pack the item,
- Place the doubled K-Pack inside a narcotics envelope,
- Seal the drug evidence envelope with evidence tape, make sure your evidence tape seals the envelope from edge to edge,
- Label it "FENTANYL" with RED marker then place that inside another K-Pack and take it to the Property Room for processing.

Staff can be exposed to Fentanyl in one of five ways: skin contact, inhalation, ingestion, contact with a mucous membrane (eyes, nose, etc.), or with a needlestick.

Don't separate the suspected item/s as that can cause the particles to go airborne and cause more infection. Activities that cause Fentanyl to become airborne require higher levels of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

If your skin is exposed to Fentanyl, you should **wash the area with water as quickly as possible**. Do not use alcohol-based hand sanitizers or bleach; they do not effectively wash opioids off skin and may increase skin absorption of Fentanyl.

Do not eat, drink, smoke, or use the bathroom while working in an area with known or suspected Fentanyl. Be aware that the use of illicit drugs in bathrooms is reportedly a common practice. Individuals might hide or try to get rid of illicit substances by dumping them into the toilet and flushing repeatedly. This process can increase the chances of responders inhaling harmful substances. This process may also cause bathroom surfaces and materials to be unsafe.

**Treat any white powdery substance as Fentanyl.**

Refer to DPPM P-300 for the Nasal Naloxone (Narcan) Program for Deputies and the treatment of suspected drug overdose victims.

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