



RISKS TO RESPONDERS FROM FENTANYLS

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FENTANYL FACTS

- Pharmaceutical Morphine is the benchmark
- Pharmaceutical Fentanyl is 100x's stronger than Morphine
- Bootleg Fentanyl may be any strength, you never know and each batch can be different
- Carfentanil can be up to 10,000x's stronger



OPIOID POTENCY

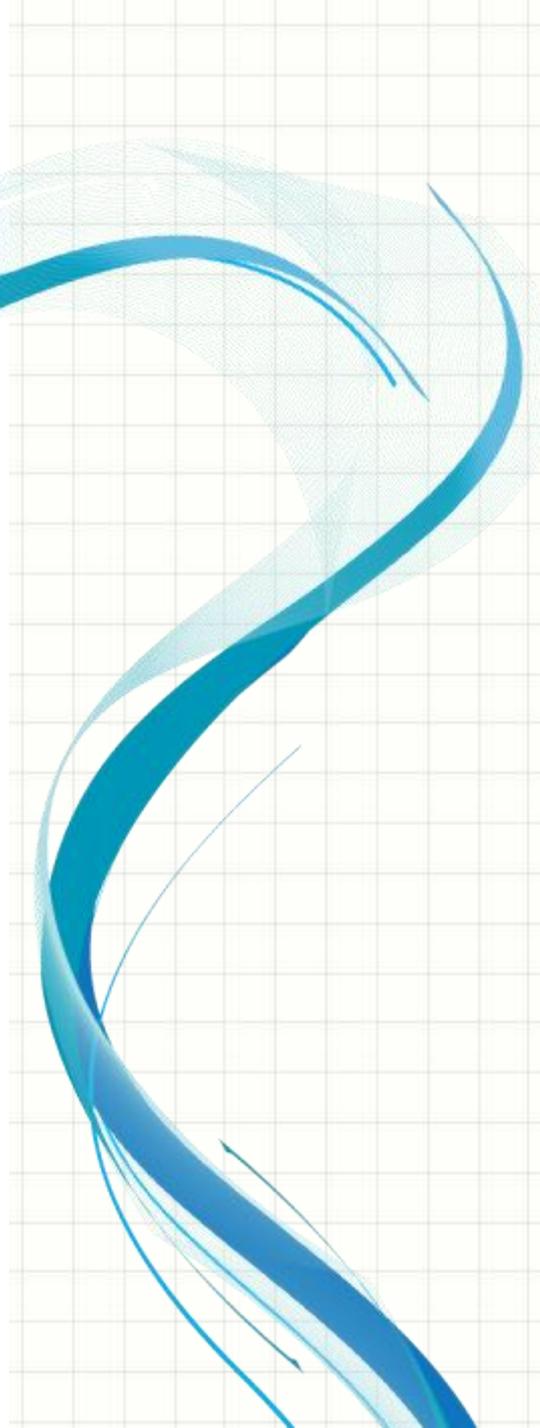


FENTANYL FACTS

To this point in 2016 Paramedic Services has responded to 437 opioid overdose calls.

Of those 437 patients, guess how many were not intending to use an illicit drug.....





Is it possible?

YES

Is it probable?

No



ROUTES OF ABSORPTION

- **ORAL/SUBLINGUAL:** TABLETS, LIQUID (METHADONE)
- **NASAL:** HEROIN/FENTANYL POWDER, NALOXONE
- **INHALATION:** SMOKING, NEBULIZED MEDS
- **TRANSDERMAL:** FENTANYL PATCHES
- **PARENTERAL:** VIA NEEDLE IV OR IM
- **OCULAR:** THROUGH MUCOUS MEMBRANE
- **RECTAL:** CERTAIN MEDS, RARE FOR ABUSE

PROTECTING YOURSELF

- 1. Act as if you are operating within a crime scene:** Do not disturb or touch any powders or liquids that are unknown to you.
- 2. Be Aware of your Surroundings:** Strange odors, padlocks on interior doors, windows blacked out may indicate a clandestine production facility.
- 3. If you think you have been exposed:** Seek care immediately. Exit the scene and call 911 for ambulance response. Symptoms can escalate rapidly.
- 4. PPE based on threat:** Gloves, glasses, N-95 mask as needed.



PROTECTING YOURSELF

- **ORAL/SUBLINGUAL:** PARAMEDICS CARRY AN N95 MASK INTO ALL SCENES
- **NASAL:** N-95 MASK
- **INHALATION:** N-95 MASK
- **TRANSDERMAL:** GLOVES & CAUTION
- **PARENTERAL:** CAUTION, DO NOT REACH INTO WHERE YOU CAN'T SEE
- **OCULAR:** SAFETY GLASSES
- **RECTAL:** ?? 😊



SUMMARY

- In 26 years of going to calls, I have NEVER seen a collection of powdered illicit drugs. People know you are coming!
- Basic Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as glasses, gloves and a mask nearby is more than sufficient protection.
- Do not disturb powders that are unknown to you.
- Trust your experience and instincts. If it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't.
- If you believe you have been exposed, move from the danger and call 911.
- Never reach into an area you cannot see into first. Backpacks, couch cushions, garbage cans all can hide sharps.

