

RISK TO EMPLOYEES

Fentanyl is a street drug used as a heroin substitute; it can be found in tablet or sold as powder. Pharmaceutical fentanyl patches have also been seized. It is 50-100 times more powerful than morphine and a lethal dose is only 2 mg (2 grains of salt).

Like other tableted drugs, the colour and shape does not confirm what it contains. Fentanyl tablets have been known to mimic Oxycodone pills [green]. Powdered form can be of a different colour, e.g. white, pink, purple, blue or green. It may resemble Heroin.

There are no presumptive test kits for fentanyl. Only lab analysis can confirm the presence of fentanyl; Do not conduct field tests when highly toxic substances are suspected.

While it can be absorbed through unbroken skin, it does take some time. Inhalation or incidental ingestion is the greatest threat to employees.

DO NOT ASSUME a white powder is just cocaine. **DO NOT SMELL OR TASTE IT!!**

Perform a Situational Risk Assessment and consider the following:

1. Quantity and form. Pills vs powder and how much?
2. Packaging. Is it street level (cut) or for transportation (not cut yet or for pill making)
3. Potential exposure risk. What is the chance of accidental inhalation or bare skin contamination?

COMMON RISK HANDLING GUIDELINES

(for all risk levels)

1. Any potential contact, wash immediately with soap and water for 15 minutes. Wash over the garment if necessary
2. With a partner, process the suspect powder/drug following the drug process, part 6, for highly toxic substances. If any symptoms are identified, contact EMS immediately

RISK TO EMPLOYEES

LOW LEVEL RISK HANDLING GUIDELINES

(less than 1 gram powder or tablets)

1. Always wear double nitrile gloves. If available, use dark-coloured nitrile gloves. A waterproof dark-coloured Gore-Tex® or similar type patrol/take down jacket will provide an additional level of safety
2. Ensure your arms are covered by wearing long sleeved shirts
3. Wear a fit tested N95 or N100 or fit tested air-purifying respirator with a P100 or N100 cartridge. Safety goggles/glasses must be worn with respirator
4. Place drug in a doubled exhibit bag clearly labelled "highly toxic substance". Transport the exhibit in trunk/back of a PMV
5. All disposable PPE will be placed in an exhibit bag and labelled as "PPE - may contain highly toxic substances" and sent for incineration
6. Air purifying respirators and goggles are to be decontaminated as per manufacturer's specifications

MODERATE RISK HANDLING GUIDELINES

(bigger than pre-packaged street level distribution)

1. Wear a fit tested, full face, air purifying respirator (APR) with P100 or N100 cartridge
2. Put on disposable Tyvek® coveralls in biohazard kit. If not available, use waterproof dark-coloured Gore-Tex®, or patrol/take-down jacket
3. Ensure a second member is present to assist with handling
4. Use black nitrile gloves and larger green gloves to handle exhibit and place in a double exhibit bag and secure container. Store and transport exhibit in the trunk/back of a PMV
5. Refer to PPE removal guidelines in Biohazard Kit

HIGH RISK HANDLING GUIDELINES

(large volumes of powder consistent with either processing or synthesizing operations, bulk quantities)

1. Remove yourself from the suspect powder's location. **DO NOT** handle the highly toxic substance unless situation dictates immediate action and mitigation for officer or public safety
2. Notify your supervisor.
3. Do not go inside public or police vehicles if there's a risk of contamination



Highly Toxic Powders e.g. Fentanyl

EXHIBIT HANDLING

Fentanyl Exposure Is Extremely Dangerous

Wearing a disposable coverall protects against exposure.

Member is wearing:

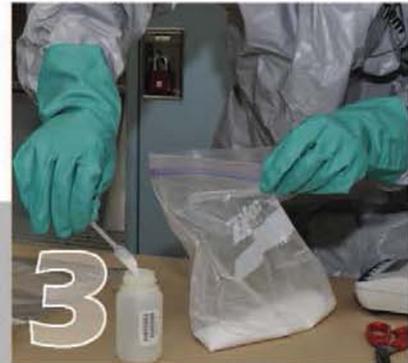
- 8mm industrial gloves rolled over suit
- full face respirator with P100 or N100 cartridges
- booties to protect footwear (if booties are not available wash shoes with soap and water afterwards)

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- Put paper on scale and zero
- Weigh powder in original packaging
- Zero sample container on scale

- Sample exhibit using a scoop or similar instrument
- Record sample weight
- Now consider the outside of the sample container contaminated



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- Zero new exhibit bag
- Empty powder into the new exhibit bag **USE EXTREME CAUTION**
- Record new weight
- Zero scale and then weigh the empty bag that contained the exhibit
- Record this weight
- The original bag is considered contaminated. Place in separate exhibit bag. This is also considered contaminated

- Clean member holds open a new exhibit bag
- Exhibit handler places sample container into bag



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- Repeat the process for the bag that contains the remainder of the exhibit
- This ensures the outer bag is clean and free from contamination

- Attach Fentanyl labels on all exhibit bags



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- Remaining exhibit is placed in a secure container by clean member to prevent a rupture such as a paint can
- This container is labelled "Fentanyl"
- Sample that is being submitted for analysis must also be labelled as Fentanyl



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Safe Removal of Personal PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



Both members must keep respirators on until removal process is complete. Exhibit handler removes outer gloves. Keep inner gloves on.



Clean member removes exhibit handler's suit. Unzip the suit and start at the hood and roll inside to outside, moving down the body.



Only the inside of the suit is exposed



Place suit, booties and outer gloves on the paper that was used during exhibit handling.



Exhibit handler removes respirator from chin and pulls up and away from face. Remove cartridges and place them in suit.



Pull down cuff of one inner glove, peeling off of one hand. Glove should be inside out and placed with suit. Repeat for the other hand.



Clean member places items in bag. Exhibit handler puts on fresh nitrile gloves and repeats process on clean member.

Both members wash hands and face with cold water and soap. Wash respirator with cold water only and hang to dry. Place back in resealable plastic bag once dry.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE PPE USED IN THIS PROCESS BE INCINERATED.