



INTRODUCTION

First Responders across BC are dealing with a drug epidemic that is taking lives and leaving Responders with a lack of resources needed to accurately identify Fentanyl and related drugs

Unlike many illicit drugs, the fentanyl being found on the streets today is extremely lethal and can affect the first responder at routine calls like medical, motor vehicle incident or hazmat incidents.

ILLICITLY

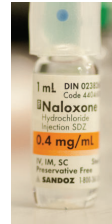


Pills

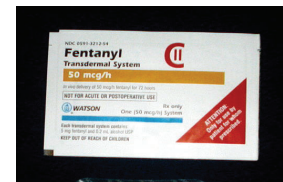


Powder

PHARMACEUTICALLY



Intravenous Injection



Transdermal Patch

Ensure that the Minimum PPE is worn for all medical incidents:

Responder PPE will consist of the following:

- Clothing: Station Wear - (note: long sleeve shirts and jackets ensure the best level of protection)
 - Respirator - N95 Disposable Mask
 - Eyewear - Glasses
 - Gloves - Nitrile Responder Gloves
 - Boots – Station Boots
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- If you enter a room and notice that there are signs of illicit drug activity or that there is any kind of white powder spread around, **you must remove the patient from the room as carefully as you can to an area free from contamination.**
 - **Make every attempt to minimize the disturbance of any white powder or drug paraphernalia.**
 - If patient is contaminated with a white powder, the Responders must remove the patients clothing so as to cause the least amount of disruption to the powder as possible.



- While the clothing is being removed, the officer in charge should locate a safe well ventilated area for the Responders to work on the undressed patient.
- **Note: Naloxone can be administered through clothing prior to decontamination if the situation requires. (Refer to the Naloxone Administration QRG)**
- Carefully move the undressed patient away from all contaminated clothing to the designated clean area.
- If required the Officer should direct the Responders or other personnel to establish a basic method of patient decontamination.
- The most basic method of Decontamination consist of copious amounts of cool clean water and mild soap (E.g. Johnston & Johnston / No more tears).
- Initiate the EMS First Responder medical aid protocol as soon as safely possible
- The responders treating the patient may need to decontaminate themselves during or after patient treatment if they have been accidentally contaminated.
- **During patient treatment Responders should pay close attention to their own well-being.**

In particular they should be aware of the sudden onset of the following symptoms:

- Nausea
- Confusion
- generally feeling unwell in comparison pre incident health

(Proceed to the next step if any of these symptoms are present)

- The possibly exposed member may need to be decontaminated.
- Follow the attached Quick Reference Guide on **Responders Emergency Decontamination of Illicit Substances.**
- Remove the affected Responder from immediate area and have them report to BCAS for assessment and treatment once decontamination is complete.