

Fentanyl Overdose Alert

There have been reports of fentanyl showing up in **cocaine, crack, meth, pills, and heroin**. Even if you're not using downers, you may be at risk of unknowingly consuming fentanyl.

What is fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a fast-acting, extremely strong opioid. An opioid is a downer and acts like heroin, oxycodone, and morphine. Although it's available by prescription, some fentanyl is being created in illicit labs and mixed into various drug supplies. Oftentimes, dealers aren't even aware that they are selling a product that contains fentanyl.

What's the danger?

A fentanyl overdose looks just like a heroin or other opioid overdose, but it comes on much faster. It's often not possible to tell that your dope has fentanyl mixed into it, and it doesn't mix consistently. So if you get a bag of pills, a few of them may contain fentanyl, and the rest may not.

Who is at risk?

Anybody using street drugs may be at risk of unknowingly consuming fentanyl and potentially experiencing an overdose. Remember, it's not just in heroin, but could be found in uppers like cocaine and meth. People who inject, snort, smoke, or swallow drugs are all at risk.

How can I stay safe?

Don't use alone. If you fall out, nobody will be there to help. If you must use alone, don't lock the door, and let somebody know where you'll be if you can.

Go slow. You can always use more, but you can't use less. Try a little and see how it affects you first before taking the whole pill, slamming the full dose, or snorting a big line.

Use a fentanyl testing strip to test your dope before you use. These can be purchased at www.dancesafe.org, and may be able to pick up on fentanyl mixed into other drugs.

Know how to recognize the symptoms of an overdose. Fentanyl and other opioids make the body stop breathing. A person will become unconscious, their breathing will become shallow or abnormal, and their pupils will be pinpointed. Their skin may turn blue or gray. After a person stops breathing, they have 4 minutes until they die.

Learn rescue breathing. Put the person on their back, plug their nose, tilt their head back, and give them a deep breath every 5 seconds. If you don't have naloxone, or the naloxone isn't working, do this until help arrives or until they gain consciousness.

Carry naloxone (Narcan), and make sure your friends carry it too. Naloxone is the opioid overdose rescue medication, and it will work on a fentanyl overdose. It is 100% legal to carry and administer in Arizona, and can be obtained for free through Sonoran Prevention Works. Visit www.spwaz.org or call 480-442-7086



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