



OPIOIDS & FENTANYL AWARENESS

FACTS ABOUT OPIOIDS/FENTANYL

Pharmaceutical Opioids/Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid used for pain management and as an anesthetic under supervision of a licensed practitioner.

- Fentanyl is 100 times stronger than morphine.
- Street level Fentanyl is being sold illegally often mixed with other illicit drugs such as cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and oxycodone with tragic consequences.
- It is odourless and tasteless and therefore hard to detect.
- Often found in powder, pill, liquid and blotter form.
- 2 milligrams of pure fentanyl (approximately 4 grains of salt) is enough to kill the average adult.
- Unintentional exposure to pure fentanyl - touching, inhaling and ingestion - can cause serious harm including death.

PRECAUTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

- Do not touch, smell, taste or disturb unknown material.
- Do not open packages or containers of unknown material.
- Where risks exist at worksite, notify your supervisor and wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) according to your worksite policy.
- Carefully remove and dispose contaminated PPE as hazardous waste by following site-specific hazardous waste disposal procedures.
- Where risk exists in public call 911.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF OPIOID/FENTANYL EXPOSURE

- Early signs may include nausea, vomiting, difficult breathing or choking (gurgling sounds or snoring) and confusion.
- Dizziness, blue lips or nails, cold clammy skin, tiny pupils, extreme drowsiness and difficulty talking and walking.
- Seizure, coma and respiratory arrest.
- If you suspect Medical Emergency call 911 immediately.

DECONTAMINATION STEPS

- Contact with unknown material, immediately use soap and water to thoroughly wash and rinse contaminated skin. Take care not to break the skin during the decontamination process and cover all open wounds. DO NOT USE HAND SANITIZER OR BLEACH SOLUTIONS to clean contaminated skin. Any alcohol base solutions speed up absorption of unknown material into the skin.
- Clothing and any PPE equipment should be removed and placed into a durable separate bag out of harms way to be either cleaned or disposed of in a safe manner.
- Notify your supervisor or call 911

FURTHER INFORMATION: <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-opioid-crisis-response.aspx#toc-0>

**WE CAN HELP!
GO TO WWW.AUPE.ORG**

