



MORRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TRENDS AND ANALYSIS TEAM (MCSTAT)



Email: mcstat@co.morris.nj.us

Phone: (973) 682-8711

Situational Awareness Bulletin

SAB-25-17

Risk of Emergency Personnel Exposure to "Gray Death"

****SPECIAL ATTENTION POLICE, FIRE, EMS, & OEM****

Morris County Sheriff James M. Gannon and the Morris County Office of Emergency Management, want to share this important safety information with our emergency first responders. We recognize that all of our emergency responders have remarkably difficult jobs, and we need to keep them educated, safe, and healthy. This information was received from an Emergency Medical Service agency in Newtown, PA.

Last night, a local EMS team in Newton, PA responded to a medical call which resulted in three EMS providers, as well as one firefighter, exposed to what is commonly referred to as "Gray Death". More specifically, "Gray Death" is a variety of heroin, or Carfentanil. This EMS call, and ultimate exposure, led to the three exposed EMS workers and one exposed firefighter being admitted to the hospital. All four providers have since been discharged from the hospital with a diagnosis of narcotic exposure with no follow-up required.

Symptoms at the time of exposure included change in mental status with agitation, hypertension, tachycardia, and diaphoresis among other symptoms.

The EMS call was reported as a Cardiac Arrest in a vehicle. The exposure to first responders is believed to have come off of the patient's arm and interior of the vehicle. They are currently looking at additional PPE to attempt to prevent this from occurring in the future. They have also suggested to their crews to remove the patient from their current environment before beginning treatment, if possible, for crew safety.

We wanted to share this information to remind everyone to be safe and vigilant as the heroin problem continues across Morris County. Morris County Sheriff James M. Gannon stated: "The United States Drug Enforcement Administration has issued a warning to the public and law enforcement nationwide about the health and safety risks of Carfentanil. Carfentanil is a synthetic opioid that is 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than Fentanyl, which itself is 50 times more potent than heroin. DEA, local law enforcement, and first responders have recently seen the presence of Carfentanil, which has been linked to a significant number of overdose deaths in various parts of the country. Improper handling of Carfentanil, as well as Fentanyl and other Fentanyl-related compounds, has deadly consequences."

According to the DEA, Carfentanil is on the rise in various communities and is commonly seen on the streets, often disguised as heroin. Synthetics such as Fentanyl and Carfentanil can kill you. Carfentanil is a Schedule II substance under the Controlled Substances Act, and is used as

(U) INFORMATION NOTICE: This document contains UNCLASSIFIED information.

UNCLASSIFIED



MORRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TRENDS AND ANALYSIS TEAM (MCSTAT)



Email: mcstat@co.morris.nj.us

Phone: (973) 682-8711

a tranquilizing agent for elephants and other large mammals. The lethal dose range for Carfentanil in humans is unknown. However, as noted, Carfentanil is approximately 100 times more potent than Fentanyl, which can be lethal at the 2-milligram range, depending on the route of administration, and other factors.

Carfentanil and other Fentanyl-related compounds are a serious danger to public safety, first responders, medical personnel, treatment personnel, and laboratory personnel. These substances can come in several forms, including powder, blotter paper, tablets, and spray. In addition, these substances can be absorbed through the skin or accidental inhalation of airborne powder. If encountered, responding personnel should do the following based on the specific situation:

- **Exercise extreme caution.** Only properly trained and outfitted law enforcement professionals should handle any substance suspected to contain Fentanyl or a Fentanyl-related compound. If encountered, contact the appropriate officials within your agency.
- **Be aware of any sign of exposure.** Symptoms include: respiratory depression or arrest, drowsiness, disorientation, sedation, pinpoint pupils, and clammy skin. The onset of these symptoms usually occurs within minutes of exposure.
- **Seek IMMEDIATE medical attention.** Carfentanil and other Fentanyl-related substances can work very quickly, so in cases of suspected exposure, it is important to have EMS intervention immediately. If inhaled, move the victim to fresh air. If ingested and the victim is conscious, wash out the victim's eyes and mouth with cool water.
- **Be ready to administer naloxone in the event of exposure.** Naloxone is an antidote for opioid overdose. Immediately administering naloxone can reverse an overdose of Carfentanil, Fentanyl, or other opioids, although multiple doses of naloxone may be required.
- **Remember that Carfentanil can resemble powdered cocaine or heroin.** If you suspect the presence of Carfentanil or any synthetic opioid, do not take samples or otherwise disturb the substance, as this could lead to accidental exposure. Rather, secure the substance and follow approved transportation procedures.

Stay safe and thank you for serving the public!

7-12-17