

AUGUST 28, 2017

**HEALTH ADVISORY****First Responder PPE and Decontamination Recommendations for Fentanyl**

The InterAgency Board for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability (IAB) recently published recommendations on selection and use of personal protective equipment and decontamination products for first responders against exposure hazards to synthetic opioids, including fentanyl and fentanyl analogues. We recommend all first responders review this guidance online at [https://www.health.nd.gov/media/1817/fr\\_ppedeconrec\\_fentanyl.pdf](https://www.health.nd.gov/media/1817/fr_ppedeconrec_fentanyl.pdf).

Specific information is provided in the guidance regarding:

- Powder-like substances can become airborne and present a respiratory hazard.
- Fentanyl and analogues are water soluble, so expedient decontamination (rinsing) of any contacted areas with water is advisable.
- Upon arrival on scene, if there are indicators that you may be entering a clandestine lab of any type, K-9 assets should not be employed.
- Recommendations for PPE protection levels for emergency response personnel and definitions of exposure risk and operation response functions are outlined in guidance.
- As the principal hazard for exposure to synthetic opioids and their analogues is respiratory, some form of respiratory protection is recommended whenever there is moderate risk or higher.
- Where fire risks exist, the primary hazard present is assumed to be exposure to thermal and physical hazards.
- Extreme care must be exercised when doffing PPE following use where contamination has occurred or is suspected.
- Follow decontamination recommendations for personal, PPE, contaminated surfaces and equipment
- Recommendations for Naloxone implementation

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## Recommended Personal Protective Equipment by Operational Response Function

Potential Synthetic Opioid Exposure Risk	Operational Response Function					
	EMS Patient Care	Law Enforcement (patrol)	Structural Fire	Special Operations (Hazmat, Technical Rescue, SWAT, EOD, etc.)	Investigations/ Evidence Collection	Decon Operations
Minimal (no visible product)	I	I	III	I	I	N/A
Moderate (small volume; known or suspected product visible; patients)	II	II	III	II	II	N/A
Moderate (large volume storage/distribution)	IV	IV	III	IV	IV	IV
High (milling lab) [particulates]	Do Not Enter		III	VV	V	V
High (production lab) [chemicals]	Do Not Enter		III	VI	VI	V

- Note: PPE requirements will be determined by the situation. Standard operating procedures may also be appropriate if the risk is acceptable.

## Recommended Personal Protective Equipment Descriptions

PPE Recommendations	Skin Protection	Eye/Face/Respiratory Protection
<b>Low Risk PPE (I)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nitrile gloves, certified to NFPA 1999 (Single Use Examination Gloves)</li> <li>Uniform</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
<b>Moderate Risk / Small Volume Hazard (II)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nitrile gloves, certified to NFPA 1999 (Single Use Examination Gloves)</li> <li>Uniform</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P100 Filtering face piece respirator with safety glasses</li> </ul>
<b>Fire Risk (III)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structural fire fighting protective ensemble (garments, helmet, hood, gloves, and footwear), certified to NFPA 1971</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-contained breathing apparatus, certified to NFPA 1981</li> </ul>
<b>Moderate Risk / High Volume Hazard (IV)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nitrile gloves, certified to NFPA 1999 (Single Use Examination Gloves)</li> <li>Uniform</li> <li>Long sleeve and/or sleeve covers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P100 Filtering face piece respirator with non-vented or indirect vented goggles; Half mask air-purifying respirator (APR) with P100 filters and non-vented or indirect vented goggles; or full-facepiece APR with P100 filters</li> </ul>
<b>High Risk / Particulate Hazard (V)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple-use emergency medical protective ensemble (garments, gloves, and footwear), certified to NFPA 1999; or Class 4 or 4R protective ensemble (garment, gloves, footwear) certified to NFPA 1994</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full-facepiece APR with P100 filters; powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter; or self-contained breathing apparatus, certified to NFPA 1981</li> </ul>
<b>High Risk / Chemical Hazard (VI)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class 3, 3R or higher protective ensemble (garments, gloves, footwear) certified to NFPA 1994 or NFPA 1991</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full facepiece chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear (CBRN) APR or CBRN PAPR; or self-contained breathing apparatus, certified to NFPA 1981</li> </ul>

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*Categories of Health Alert messages:*

- *Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*
- *Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*
- *Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

*This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, North Dakota EMS Association and hospital public information officers.*

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