



## Central Florida Intelligence Exchange

Brevard ★ Indian River ★ Lake ★ Martin ★ Orange ★ Osceola ★ Seminole ★ St Lucie ★ Volusia

### FIRST RESPONDER SAFETY CONCERNS

#### Increased Use and Deaths Associated with Pure and Heroin Laced Fentanyl

#### (U) Scope

(U//FOUO) This bulletin was created by the Central Florida Intelligence Exchange (CFIX) to provide special precautions and first responder safety awareness of an increased use and deaths associated with heroin laced with fentanyl and pure fentanyl (with no heroin present). With fentanyl being 30 to 50 times more potent than heroin, it represents an unusual hazard for law enforcement, corrections officers, health care providers and other first responders who may come in contact. The improper handling of fentanyl is considered extremely dangerous, and proven to be fatal.

#### (U//FOUO) Key Findings

- (U//FOUO) Encounters involving fentanyl may be fatal to law enforcement, corrections officers, health care providers and other first responders.
- (U//FOUO) Fentanyl can be absorbed into the body via inhalation, oral exposure or ingestion. While in pure form, it only takes the size of a few grains of table salt to be deadly due to its rapid absorption.
- (U//FOUO) Nationwide, reports of fentanyl occurrences have risen over 250% since 2013, with a relatively high number of encounters throughout Central Florida (2014-2015).
- (U//FOUO) In Florida, there was a 16.3% increase in deaths from 2012 to 2013 where fentanyl was either the cause of death or found present in the decedents.
- (U//FOUO) Due to the higher potency of heroin laced with fentanyl and pure fentanyl being distributed in place of heroin, overdose deaths and overall substance encounters will most likely increase.



#### (U) Overview

(U//FOUO) Special precautions should be observed when handling and processing suspected fentanyl in pure form, laced in heroin or any other drug cut with fentanyl. Fentanyl is a scheduled II substance legitimately prescribed for pain treatment, although has recently been encountered in heroin seizures as an adulterant and is suspected of causing numerous overdoses and deaths throughout the nation due to its severe misuse and toxicity. If encountered, there is a significant risk to the health and safety of personnel within the emergency services sector and the general public.

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**(U//FOUO) Fentanyl Characteristics**

(U//FOUO) Fentanyl is a prescription synthetic opioid that is 30 to 50 times stronger than heroin and 80 to 100 times more potent than morphine.

(U//FOUO) While unadulterated, fentanyl may resemble cocaine powder; however, if mixed with other substances may alter its appearance.

(U//FOUO) Fentanyl is NOT immediately recognizable and is known to give false positive results for heroin or cocaine.

(U//FOUO) Fentanyl may be combined with another mixtures to disguise as a smuggling tactic.

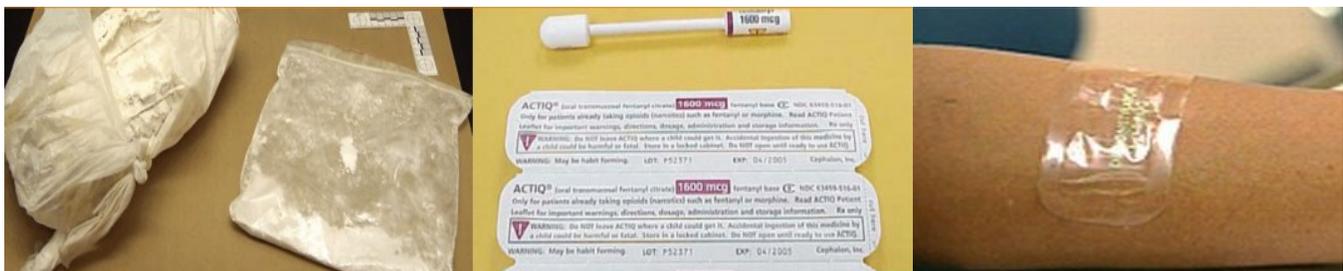
(U//FOUO) More than 80% of fentanyl combinations are reported as heroin.

(U//FOUO) Small bags of a wax-paper-like material called "glassine" stamped with popular brand names has been found to package heroin, with the potential of a toxic fentanyl mixture for greater profit.

**(U) Common Street Names**

(U) "Apache"	(U) "Goodfella"
(U) "China Girl"	(U) "Jackpot"
(U) "China White"	(U) "Murder 8"
(U) "Dance Fever"	(U) "Tango & Cash"
(U) "Friend"	(U) "TNT"

(Note: The list above, although not limited to, contains commonly known street names of drug mixed cocktails.)

**(U//FOUO) Fentanyl Common Uses and Side Effects**

(U//FOUO) Fentanyl is also commonly prescribed as a patch or a lollipop used to treat severe or chronic pain and sedation (pictured above). After each use, there is 30% to 50% of the original fentanyl that remains in the patch, leading to the reuse of the patch.

(U//FOUO) Fentanyl can be cut open and the contents chewed smoked, or extracted with acetone.

(U//FOUO) Fentanyl can also be injected, snorted, smoked, or taken orally.

(U//FOUO) Exposure to fentanyl may be fatal as it depresses central nervous system and respiratory functions.

(U//FOUO) The onset of adverse side effects includes; disorientation, coughing, sedation, respiratory distress or cardiac arrest, usually occurring within minutes of exposure.

## (U//FOUO) Other Considerations

(U//FOUO) Corrections Officers may also encounter fentanyl with the smuggling of heroin by concealment. On 28 January 2015, an inmate booked in the Geauga County Safety Center was charged with illegal conveyance of drugs after smuggling heroin laced with fentanyl by sewing it into the seam of underwear that was allowed to be given to inmates.

## (U) Outlook and Implications

(U//FOUO) Routine encounters of fentanyl misuse and drug-related deaths will predictably increase throughout the nation, as drug suppliers continue to find prolific use and cheap sources of fentanyl or as new "drug cocktail" mixtures continue to gain popularity on the streets.

(U//FOUO) Fentanyl, in rare form or combined as a drug mixture, poses a significant hazard to law enforcement, corrections officers, health care providers and other first responders who may unknowingly come in contact with this drug. While in pure form, it only takes the size of a few grains of table salt to be deadly due to its rapid absorption into the skin.



(U//FOUO) As a precaution, those who may come in contact with substances resembling fentanyl should wear gloves and personal protective gear as powdered fentanyl is extremely powerful due to the easy absorption through the skin.

(U//FOUO) Personnel who come in contact with fentanyl should move to a well ventilated area, hands should be washed with copious amounts of soap and water and seek immediate medical attention.

## (U) Reporting Notice

(U) The Central Florida Intelligence Exchange is providing this information for situational awareness. For additional information on this product, or to report suspicious activity, please contact the CFI at (407) 858-3950 or [CFIX@ocfl.net](mailto:CFIX@ocfl.net).

## (U) Sources

- (U) Drug Enforcement Administration - *Office of Diversion Control*: National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS) Special Report; FENTANYL
- (U//FOUO) U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); Officer Safety Alert Regarding Fentanyl and Heroin Laces with Fentanyl
- (U) Open Source Article — Geauga County Maple Leaf; [www.geaugamapleleaf.com/news/inmate-overdose-leads-to-four-arrests/](http://www.geaugamapleleaf.com/news/inmate-overdose-leads-to-four-arrests/)