



## National Association of EMS Physicians®

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### **NAEMSP Supports the Release of Unified Fentanyl Safety Recommendations for First Responders**

Overland Park, KS (November 2, 2017) -- On November 1, 2017, the White House announced the release of *Fentanyl Safety Recommendations for First Responders*. The increased prevalence of [fentanyl](#) and other synthetic opioids in the illicit drug market means that first responders need to understand how to protect themselves from exposure in the field. Law enforcement, fire, rescue, and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel must balance safety with mobility and efficiency when responding to scenes where the presence of fentanyl is suspected.

The *Fentanyl Safety Recommendations for First Responders* provides unified, scientific, evidence-based recommendations to first responders so they can protect themselves when the presence of fentanyl is suspected during the course of their daily activities such as responding to overdose calls and conducting traffic stops, arrests, and searches. NAEMSP supports the release of these *Recommendations* as a critical first step in keeping first responders safe in the field.

The *Recommendations* are the result of a Federal Interagency Working Group coordinated by the White House National Security Council. Stakeholder associations and organizations representing the medical, public health, law enforcement, Fire/EMS, and occupational safety and health disciplines provided invaluable input to inform the Interagency Working Group's efforts, and their feedback helped ensure the *Recommendations* are operationally relevant, appropriately tailored to first responders, and conveyed in a user-friendly one-page format.

NAEMSP is one of 24 associations/organizations offering collaborative support for the *Recommendations*. NAEMSP President, Brent Myers, MD, MPH, FAEMS states, "NAEMSP is committed to enhancing the safety of our first responders and thus we were honored to be a part of this important project. The guidelines provided here are supported by a wide variety of experts and are designed to ensure ease of implementation. We anticipate these recommendations will serve as vital advice as our nation responds to the current opioid crisis."

Medical experts agree that most daily encounters involving the presence of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids do not present significant health concerns to first responders when appropriate protective actions are taken. The *Recommendations* fall into three specific categories:

- Actions first responders can take to protect themselves from exposure.
- Actions first responders can take when exposure occurs.
- Actions first responders can take when they or their partners exhibit signs of intoxication.

To access the *Fentanyl Safety Recommendations for First Responders*, visit <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/key-issues/fentanyl>



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About the National Association of Emergency Services Physicians (NAEMSP) The National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) is an organization of physicians and other out-of-hospital emergency medical care professionals partnering to provide leadership and foster excellence in the subspecialty of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) medicine. NAEMSP also publishes the peer-reviewed and top-ranked *Prehospital Emergency Care* journal, as well as a blog and podcast on breaking issues and developments in the EMS field.

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