



DATE:	July 31, 2017
TO:	Health Alert Network
FROM:	Rachel Levine, MD, Acting Secretary of Health and Physician General
SUBJECT:	Newly Released Guidance on Preventing Fentanyl Exposure Among First Responders
DISTRIBUTION:	Statewide
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This transmission is a “Health Advisory”: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Newly Released Guidance on Preventing Fentanyl Exposure Among First Responders

The American College of Medical Toxicologists recently released a position paper on “preventing occupational fentanyl and fentanyl analog exposure to emergency responders.” It can be accessed at the following link:

http://www.acmt.net/Library/Fentanyl_Position/Fentanyl_PPE_Emergency_Responders_.pdf

One key feature of this document is that it clarifies the role of dermal exposure to illicitly-manufactured fentanyl and fentanyl analogs as a health hazard for first responders, noting that dermal toxicity is, in fact, very low for the powdered fentanyl products, and that standard universal precautions, and in some cases an N95 mask for respiratory protection, are sufficient protection for law enforcement and other first responders. It should be noted that NIOSH has recently updated their guidance on this topic, and this guidance can be found at the following link: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/fentanyl/risk.html>

Categories of Health Alert Network messages:

- Health Alert** Requires immediate action or attention; highest level of importance
- Health Advisory** May not require immediate action; provides important information for a specific incident or situation
- Health Update** Unlikely to require immediate action; provides updated information regarding an incident or situation
- HAN Info Service** Does not require immediate action; provides general public health information

This information is current as of July 31, 2017, but may be modified in the future.