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MIKE DEWINE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Criminal Intelligence Unit

BULLETIN

Officer Awareness: Carfentanil

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With fentanyl-related overdoses being frequently reported among Ohio news media1, please be reminded that contact with any powder can be harmful. Fentanyl in different combinations has been cited; most recently, overdoses in Ohio may be linked to the presence of carfentanil, an even more potent and dangerous opiate than fentanyl. This drug has surfaced in illicit on-the-street heroin in Ohio1.

Carfentanil is used by veterinarians on large, wild animals. It is extremely potent and fast-acting (about 100 times more potent than fentanyl and 10,000 times more potent than morphine)2.

Field testing is generally discouraged as it may be unreliable and dangerous3. Ohio BCI recommends that items containing heroin, fentanyl, suspected heroin, or suspected fentanyl not be field tested as they could contain potent synthetic opioids such as carfentanil. It is advised that any samples be sent directly to laboratory for testing3. However, if your agency requires you conduct a field test, handle with care and know the symptoms of exposure4 (such as constricted pupils, respiratory depression or depressed mental status4). Below are lists of general guidelines for either situation.

LAB COLLECTION GUIDELINES3

- Package in plastic
• Ensure a secure, adequate seal on evidence packaging

FIELD TESTING GUIDELINES

- Use ventilation masks, gloves and eye protection to guard from direct contact3
• Absorption can occur through mucus membranes or broken skin4

Sources:

1. http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2016/07/11/fentanyl-laced-heroin-blamed-for-deadly-spike-in-overdoses.html
http://www.ohio.com/news/local/rash-of-drug-overdoses-continues-in-akron-4-dead-among-25-plus-suspected-incidents-in-3-days-1.695464
http://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/hamilton-county/cincinnati/fentanyl-overdose-deaths-rise-sharply-in-hamilton-county-report-finds
http://www.toledoblade.com/Medical/2016/03/23/Fentanyl-blamed-for-spike-in-deaths.html
http://www.cbsnews.com/news/heroin-overdoses-akron-ohio-elephant-animal-sedative/
(All Accessed 18 July 2016).
2. http://wildpro.twycrosszoo.org/S/00Chem/ChComplex/Carfentanil.htm (Accessed 18 July 16).
3. Ohio BCI Laboratory
4. "Human Health Hazards of Veterinary Medications: Information for Emergency Departments." Elaine Blythe Lust, Claudia Barthold, Mark A. Malesker, and Tammy O. Wichman, Pharmacology in Emergency Medicine, The Journal of Emergency Medicine, Vol. 40, No. 2, pp. 198-207. Published in 2011.

About BCI CIU

The Criminal Intelligence Unit consists of Criminal Intelligence Analysts and a Criminal Intelligence Analyst Supervisor. Analysts are located in BCI London headquarters, as well as regional offices in Youngstown, Bowling Green and Richfield. The members receive and fulfill requests from BCI Agents, local, state, federal law enforcement agencies and task forces. Our mission is to predict and expose criminal activity in order to prevent, eliminate or neutralize the activity.



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This bulletin's purpose is to provide up to date and relevant intelligence to Law Enforcement agencies across Ohio. If you have information that you would like to share with other Ohio Law Enforcement agencies or if there is a topic that you would like researched and put into a bulletin, send it to BCI CIU at Intel@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov and it will be included in a future bulletin.