With fentanyl-related overdoses being frequently reported among Ohio news media, 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 Ohio.

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).

Field testing is generally discouraged as it may be unreliable and dangerous. 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 testing. However, if your agency requires you conduct a field test, handle with care and know the symptoms of exposure (such as constricted pupils, respiratory depression or depressed mental status). Below are lists of general guidelines for either situation.

### LAB COLLECTION GUIDELINES
- 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 contact
- Absorption can occur through mucus membranes or broken skin

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**Sources:**
2. [http://wildpro.twycrosszoo.org/S/00Chem/ChComplex/Carfentanil.htm](http://wildpro.twycrosszoo.org/S/00Chem/ChComplex/Carfentanil.htm)

(All Accessed 18 July 2016).

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