

## **Fentanyl Contamination of Stimulants and Counterfeit Pills – Overdose Cluster**

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### General Info:

- Exercise Dates: TBD
- Location: TBD (POST Communities to Identify)
- Scope: This is a Tabletop Exercise, planned for three hours on Zoom. Exercise play is limited to notification and initial response.
- Scenario: Overdose cluster among people who use stimulants or those using counterfeit pills due to suspected fentanyl contamination

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## Objectives

1. Primary partners activate plan within 1 day of identified/suspected overdose cluster
2. Initiate communications among partners (internal) and information sharing within 1 week of identified/suspected cluster
3. Effectively gather appropriate representatives/partners for response coordination from the Public Health, Harm Reduction, First Responder, Hospital, Community disciplines within 1 week of identified/suspected cluster
4. Designate organizations and personnel to conduct outreach (within 48 hours of identified/suspected overdose cluster) and coordinate public information.

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SMO

## Scenario

- In November 2022, officers with the [Municipal Police Department] are conducting outreach preparation with their partners in the [Harm Reduction Organization] and it is noted that two overdoses have occurred in the past few days involving people who were not intentionally using an opioid. Further information is relayed by drug testing done at the [Harm Reduction Organization] showing that samples of powder cocaine are coming back positive for fentanyl.

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## Slide 4

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**SMO** would be about the priorities that each party might have. it might offer a nice opportunity for people to understand the "different cultures" and "drivers" that each partner brings to a response. Sometimes these are philosophical approaches and sometimes policies. But knowing them might help improve partnerships and inform planning.

Stephen Murray, 2022-09-07T16:02:28.759

### Exercise Objectives and Core Capabilities

The following exercise objectives in Table 1 describe the expected outcomes for the exercise. The objectives are linked to core capabilities, which are distinct critical elements necessary to achieve the specific mission area(s). The objectives and aligned core capabilities are guided by elected and appointed officials and selected by the Exercise Planning Team.

Exercise Objective	Core Capability
Initiate communications among partners (internal) and information sharing within 1 week of identified/suspected overdose cluster.	Operational Coordination
Activate plan within 24 hours of identified or suspected overdose cluster.	Operational coordination
Effectively gather appropriate representatives/partners for response coordination from the Public Health, Harm Reduction, First Responder, Hospital, Community disciplines within 1 week of identified/suspected overdose cluster.	Operational Coordination Community Preparedness Public Information and Warning
Designate organizations and personnel to conduct outreach (within 1 week of identified/suspected overdose cluster) as well as designate a lead organization to coordinate public messaging using a Joint Information System (JIS).	Operational Coordination Public Information and Warning Community Preparedness
Designate organizations and personnel to conduct testing (within 3 weeks of identified/suspected overdose cluster).	Operational Coordination Community Preparedness

Table 1. Exercise Objectives and Associated Core Capabilities

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### Participant Roles and Responsibilities

- The term *participant* encompasses many groups of people, not just those playing in the exercise. Groups of participants involved in the exercise, and their respective roles and responsibilities, are as follows:
  - **Players.** Players are personnel who have an active role in discussing or performing their regular roles and responsibilities during the exercise. Players discuss or initiate actions in response to the simulated emergency.
  - **Observers.** Observers do not directly participate in the exercise. However, they may support the development of player responses to the situation during the discussion by asking relevant questions or providing subject matter expertise.
  - **Facilitators.** Facilitators provide situation updates and moderate discussions. They also provide additional information or resolve questions as required. Key Exercise Planning Team members also may assist with facilitation as subject matter experts (SMEs) during the exercise.
  - **Evaluators.** Evaluators are assigned to observe and document certain objectives during the exercise. Their primary role is to document player discussions, including how and if those discussions conform to plans, policies, and procedures.

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### Exercise Structure

- This exercise will be a multimedia, facilitated exercise. Players will participate in the following 7 modules, with a brief training on fentanyl contamination of stimulants and counterfeit pills:
  - Module 0: Building Community Partnerships, Engaging Faith Leaders
  - Module 1: “Do we have a problem here?” Identifying false alarms, Fentanyl Test Strips for PWUS
  - Module 2: “We’ve got a problem here”: On November 11th, 2022, Municipal Officers working with their Harm Reduction partners, identify a small cluster of overdoses. Stimulant Related Identification
  - Module 3: Notifications and Organizing, On November 12th, 2022, an emergency meeting is called with community partners and stakeholders
  - Module 4: Response, On November 14th, 2022, high-risk individuals are contacted via various outreach and communication channels
  - Module 5: Preventing Future Outbreaks: November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022
  - Module 6: Hot Wash
- Each module begins with a multimedia update that summarizes key events occurring within that time period. After the updates, participants review the situation and engage in group discussions.

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#### MODULE 0: BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGING FAITH LEADERS

In a community across the state, several opioid overdoses have occurred where people believed they were using powdered cocaine. This news prompts discussion during the pre-planning meeting done by [Municipal Police Department] and [Harm Reduction Program].

“This could happen in our town too,” states Sgt Jim Brackish. “Who do we need to bring to the table to prepare to respond to something like this?”

#### Questions

Based on the information provided, participate in the discussion concerning the issues raised in Module 0. Identify any critical issues, decisions, requirements, or questions that should be addressed at this time.

The following questions are provided as suggested subjects that you may wish to address as the discussion progresses. These questions are not meant to constitute a definitive list of concerns to be addressed, nor is there a requirement to address every question.

1. Based on the information presented, what are your agency’s top priorities at this time?
2. What steps are you taking right now, if any?
3. What additional information might you seek out, if anything, and from where?
4. What steps are you taking right now to inform the partners, providers, and responders?
5. What type of messaging or information sharing, if any, would you be considering at this time?

#### Implementation Activity:

Using the [Building Community Partnerships](#) and [Engaging Faith Leaders](#) worksheets, identify partners in your community who would be helpful if a similar outbreak were to occur. Watch the [Stimulant-Related Event Identification for Law Enforcement](#) training.

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**MODULE 1: “DO WE HAVE A PROBLEM HERE?” [October 31, 2022]: [11:00 PM]**

On Halloween night, [Municipal Police Department] and [Local EMS Agency] are dispatched to the local skatepark for a report of two males who have overdosed. On arrival, they find a large group of people surrounding two unresponsive male parties. Naloxone is administered and breathing is restored for both. While EMS is loading the unresponsive patients into the ambulance, several bystanders start talking to officers.

“I don’t know how this could happen! Colby was just smoking some weed and then he stopped breathing. Could it be fentanyl in the weed?” The friend hands Officer Zane the small bag of weed.

The officers have heard of this happening in Connecticut. Moments later, Officer Zane begins to feel like the world is closing in around him. He is light-headed, panicked, and hyperventilating. He drops to his knees and complains that his chest hurts. Thinking that this could be a fentanyl exposure, another officer administers him naloxone and he is transported to the hospital.

**Questions**

Based on the information provided, participate in the discussion concerning the issues raised in Module 1. Identify any critical issues, decisions, requirements, or questions that should be addressed at this time.

The following questions are provided as suggested subjects that you may wish to address as the discussion progresses. These questions are not meant to constitute a definitive list of concerns to be addressed, nor is there a requirement to address every question.

1. Based on the information presented, what are your agency’s top priorities at this time?
2. What steps are you taking right now, if any?
3. What additional information might you seek out, if anything, and from where?
4. What steps are you taking right now to inform the partners, providers, and responders?
5. What type of messaging or information sharing, if any, would you be considering at this time?

**Implementation Activity:**

Overdoses can occur anywhere in the community. Use the **NaloxBox tool** to discuss effective siting of naloxone in public spaces where people may be using stimulants. Review the **Fentanyl Test Strip tool** and provide copies to all community partners. **Watch the SHIELD Stimulant module training.**

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**MODULE 2: “WE’VE GOT A PROBLEM HERE”**

**[November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022]: [3:00 PM]**

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, officers with the Municipal Police Department are conducting outreach preparation with their partners in the Harm Reduction Organization. Each week, they sit together a table and review the overdoses that occurred in the community over the last week to discuss an outreach schedule and strategy. Among the many overdoses that occurred, it is noted that two overdoses have occurred in the past few days involving people who were not intentionally using an opioid.

Case 1: 27-year-old male, found unresponsive in a bathroom at the Watering Hole, a local bar known for its late closing time. Narcan is administered by a bystander and 911 is called. The patient wakes up as EMS is arriving and states to the responding officer, “What happened?? I was doing coke. I’ve never done opioids before.” He is taken to the hospital for observation, where a urinalysis confirms that he has both cocaine and fentanyl in his system.

Case 2: A 46-year-old female overdoses at home. After being revived, she tells the responding EMS crew that she hasn’t used heroin in over 6 months and has been only injecting cocaine. Her boyfriend corroborates this story, stating that she has been doing well. She has never been to the brick-and-mortar [Harm Reduction Program]

The Harm Reduction staff quickly consult their MADDs app and finds that several of the cocaine samples they have tested in the last two days were positive for fentanyl.

**Questions**

Based on the information provided, participate in the discussion concerning the issues raised in Module 1. Identify any critical issues, decisions, requirements, or questions that should be addressed at this time.

The following questions are provided as suggested subjects that you may wish to address as the discussion progresses. These questions are not meant to constitute a definitive list of concerns to be addressed, nor is there a requirement to address every question.

1. Based on the information presented, what are your agency’s top priorities at this time?
2. What steps are you taking right now, if any?
3. What additional information might you seek out, if anything, and from where?
4. What steps are you taking right now to inform the partners, providers, and responders?
5. What type of messaging or information sharing, if any, would you be considering at this time?

**Implementation Activity:**

Distribute information about **drug checking capability** in your area. Watch the **POST Online Referral** video so that community partners know how to refer overdoses that may not have been responded to by police/EMS. Use the **SSP Incentive tool** to work on creating future engagement with Case 2. Use the **Creating Space for Private Conversation** and **Brown Bag** tools to discuss how to improve privacy during outreach visit for Case 2.

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## Module 3: Notifications and Organizing [November 12th, 2022]: [1:00 PM]

Since the meeting yesterday, law enforcement and harm reduction staff have reached out to Emergency Medical Service (EMS) partners in the region as well as the local hospital system.

The team decides that they need to coordinate in a more strategic way and formalize their communications.

**Case 3: A 19-year-old male became unresponsive while at a concert in the Ultra Music Venue downtown. He reports that he had sniffed some cocaine in the bathroom a few minutes prior.**

### Questions

Based on the information provided, participate in the discussion concerning the issues raised in Module 2. Identify any critical issues, decisions, requirements, or questions that should be addressed at this time.

The following questions are provided as suggested subjects that you may wish to address as the discussion progresses. These questions are not meant to constitute a definitive list of concerns to be addressed, nor is there a requirement to address every question.

- Based on the information presented, what are your agency's top priorities at this time?
- What steps are you taking right now, if any?
- What additional information might you seek out, if anything, and from where?
- What steps are you taking right now to inform the partners, providers, and responders?
- What steps, if any, are you taking to coordinate or manage public information?

### Implementation Activity:

Using the **Engaging Youth tool**, ensure that you identified any nightclubs, bars or music venues that may be at risk and develop strategies for engaging young people. Watch the **Black, Hispanic or Native cultural humility training**.

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## MODULE 4: GRIEF AND ENGAGING FAMILIES

[November 14th, 2022]: [8:00 AM]

Case 4: EMS/Police respond to a home in [neighborhood] and find a 24 year old male deceased. There are several pills found near him. Case is referred to Post-Overdose team for follow-up with the decedent's parents.

On post-overdose team arrival, the father is visibly distraught and showing signs of acute grief.

### Questions

Based on the information provided, participate in the discussion concerning the issues raised in Module 3. Identify any critical issues, decisions, requirements, or questions that should be addressed at this time.

The following questions are provided as suggested subjects that you may wish to address as the discussion progresses. These questions are not meant to constitute a definitive list of concerns to be addressed, nor is there a requirement to address every question.

1. Based on the information presented, what are your agency's top priorities at this time?
2. What steps are you taking right now, if any?
3. Is your agency involved in outreach, testing, or coordination?
4. What additional information might you seek out, if anything, and from where?
5. What steps are you taking right now to inform the partners, providers, and responders?
6. How are you coordinating public information, rumor control and messaging to stakeholders and the public?

### Implementation Activity:

Using the [Grief Support Linkage Tool](#), show partners how to refer people to The Sun Will Rise.

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## MODULE 5: RESPONSE

**[November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022]: [8:00 AM]**

Harm Reduction staff and Law Enforcement believe that proactive messaging must be done to spread the word about the current risk of overdose.

Harm Reduction staff send out an alert via their messaging system to all participants who have a cell phone. They also visit the 3 encampments they usually outreach to and tell everyone staying there. The A-Okay Motel is also visited, and sex workers are informed of the current cluster. They stop at local bars and clubs and drop off Narcan and offer to train bartenders and other staff.

Law enforcement notifies their current criminal informants.

The parents of Case 3 (19 year old at club) reach out to the post-overdose team looking for family supports. They also ask for information about obtaining a Section 35 for their son.

### Questions

Based on the information provided, participate in the discussion concerning the issues raised in Module 3. Identify any critical issues, decisions, requirements, or questions that should be addressed at this time.

The following questions are provided as suggested subjects that you may wish to address as the discussion progresses. These questions are not meant to constitute a definitive list of concerns to be addressed, nor is there a requirement to address every question.

1. Based on the information presented, what are your agency's top priorities at this time?
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3. Is your agency involved in outreach, testing, or coordination?
4. What additional information might you seek out, if anything, and from where?
5. What steps are you taking right now to inform the partners, providers, and responders?
6. How are you coordinating public information, rumor control and messaging to stakeholders and the public?

### Implementation Activity:

Using the **Social Media Tool**, discuss effective messaging that can be distributed through your active social media networks. Use the **Family Support Linkage tool** to provide a handoff to Learn to Cope. Provide the **Alternatives to Involuntary Commitment** handout and discuss as a group.

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## MODULE 6: PREVENTING FUTURE OUTBREAKS

**[November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022]: [3:00 PM]**

It has been a week since the last overdose related to stimulants or pills. The team assembles for their weekly meeting. "How do we work to prevent this from happening again?" asks Sgt Brackish.

### Questions

Based on the information provided, participate in the discussion concerning the issues raised in Module 5. Identify any critical issues, decisions, requirements, or questions that should be addressed at this time.

The following questions are provided as suggested subjects that you may wish to address as the discussion progresses. These questions are not meant to constitute a definitive list of concerns to be addressed, nor is there a requirement to address every question.

1. Based on the information presented, what are your agency's top priorities at this time?
2. What steps are you taking right now, if any?
3. What additional information might you seek out, if anything, and from where?
4. What steps are you taking right now to inform the partners, providers, and responders?
5. What type of messaging or information sharing, if any, would you be considering at this time?

### Implementation Activity:

Engage with MOUD providers to offer **prophylactic naltrexone** for people who are high risk.

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## Module 6: Hotwash

Please complete the Hot Wash Questionnaire before you leave. Your input is vital to our After-Action and Improvement Plan process.

### Discussion: All

- Name 3 things that went well today?
- Name 3 things that needs improvement?
- What do you think our next steps should be?
- Did today's exercise make you better prepared to respond to an overdose cluster?

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## Toolkit Implementation Summary

- Module 0: Building Community Partnerships, Engaging Faith Leaders, Stimulant Identification for Law Enforcement Partners
- Module 1: Fentanyl Test Strips for PWUS, NaloxBox, SHIELD
- Module 2: Drug checking capability, POST Online Referral, SSP Incentive, Creating Space for Private Conversation and Brown Bag
- Module 3: Engaging Youth, Cultural Humility
- Module 4: Social Media Tool, Family Support Linkage, Alternatives to Involuntary Commitment
- Module 5: Naltrexone Prophylaxis

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## Discussion

- What do you think of the overall concept as an implementation strategy?
- Would you be able to assemble your community members to make this work?
- How would I be most helpful in organizing this? Would I be the right facilitator?