



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

JUN 15 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR: Directors, Field Operations (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
Executive Directors (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

FROM: Todd C. Owen (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
Executive Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Field Operations (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

SUBJECT: Update on Fentanyl Handling and the Naloxone Pilot Program

In February of this year, the Office of Field Operations (OFO) published guidance on handling and testing suspected Fentanyl due to an observed uptick in seizures. At this time, the law enforcement community continues to experience high seizure rates for all opioids, and recent public incidents underscore the hazards that they pose to officers and the general public.

To provide medical countermeasures capable of countering deliberate and accidental opioid overdoses, OFO continues to expand the Naloxone Pilot Program. Naloxone is the only drug that counters an opioid's effect on the human body. Fentanyl is no exception, and during the course of two implementation phases, the pilot program has been rolled out (b) (7)(E) and (b) (7)(E) (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

Moving forward, OFO plans to continue expanding availability of Naloxone via the Naloxone Pilot Program and the Emergency Medical Services program. In the meantime, it is important to reiterate safe handling procedures for suspected opioids, including Fentanyl; and, ensure that all personnel are properly using Personal Protective Equipment. Please review and distribute this package to all locations. Should you have any questions or concerns pertaining to this requirement please contact Director, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) or OFO Incident Management Division at (b) (7)(E)

Attachment



MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
OFFICE OF FIELD OPERATIONS



**Date of Muster:** June 8, 2016

**Topic:** Update on Safe Handling of Fentanyl and Naloxone

**Headquarters POC:** OFO, Operations, Incident Management Division

**MESSAGE:** The following is intended to re-enforce Fentanyl safe handling procedures and the application of Naloxone in the event of exposure.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this muster is to address a recent uptick in CBP seizures of fentanyl and establish uniform CBP guidelines for the safe handling, testing, and response when an encounter of fentanyl is known or suspected. This muster will help to ensure uniformity and operational consistency at all CBP locations. Additionally, the Naloxone Pilot Program is currently being rolled out at (b) (7)(E). This pilot program will enhance response capabilities at these locations. Field Offices and ports are encouraged to implement local procedures which may be unique to environment, provided they do not conflict with guidelines set forth herein.

**BACKGROUND:**

Fentanyl is a potent, synthetic opioid analgesic that has been used as a pain reliever and analgesic since the 1960s and is a schedule II substance under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). Fentanyl depresses the central nervous system and respiratory function. Fentanyl can be absorbed into the body via inhalation, oral exposure or ingestion, or skin contact. It can also enter the body through inadvertent touching of the mouth, nose, or other mucous membranes. The onset of adverse health effects, such as disorientation, coughing, sedation, respiratory distress or cardiac arrest, is very rapid and profound, usually occurring within minutes of exposure. The improper handling of fentanyl can be dangerous and can prove to be fatal. As a result, it represents a hazard for law enforcement and public safety personnel.

**SAFE HANDLING PROCEDURES:**

Once contraband has been discovered and there is presumptive evidence to believe that the unidentified powder being presented is fentanyl, then the following actions are required at a minimum:

- (b) (7)(E)
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(b) (7)(E)

Managers shall ensure that every officer who needs to use PPE is provided training on the proper application. Training shall be provided by a qualified contractor, other Federal agency, or CBP employee who has successfully completed formal training in the selection, use, and maintenance of PPE.

**SPILLS / LEAKAGE:**

(b) (7)(E)

**TRANSFER AND TRANSPORT:**

(b) (7)(E)

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE:**

(b) (7)(E)

**REFERENCES:**

- (b) (7)(E) *International Mail Operations and Enforcement Handbook*
- (b) (7)(E) *Seized Asset Management and Enforcement Procedures Handbook*
- (b) (7)(E) *Express Consignment Operations and Enforcement Handbook*

