

Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogues

Responder Best Practices

Incidents involving Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogues are becoming more common across the United States. Recognizing and understanding the threat is critical to determining the appropriate response. It should be never assumed that a clandestine lab involves only the production of illicit drugs. Consider the possibility that any clandestine lab may involve the production of chemical agents, biological agents, homemade explosives, or a combination.

Facts about Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogues

Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogues (Sufentanyl, Lofentanyl, Carfentanil, others):

- Are highly toxic organic solids (UN 2811). However, fentanyls can be found as powders, liquids, nasal sprays, pills, and aerosols.
- Pose both a dermal and respiratory hazard to the first responder.
- Are water soluble.
- Can be easily destroyed by applying 5% peracetic acid, or using the 3-part Dahlgren Decon solution.

Best Practices for First Responders

It is advised to request assistance from your local HMRT when dealing with these materials.

- Use standard universal precautions, with an added concern about potential airborne materials and/or aerosolization.
- Nitrile gloves are required. **Latex gloves should not be used.**
 - Long sleeve shirts and pants are recommended for maximum skin coverage.
 - At a minimum, a P100 mask should be considered for respiratory protection.
- If contact with the material becomes unavoidable, expedient decontamination (rinsing) of any contacted areas with water is advisable. Splashing should be kept to a minimum to avoid aerosolization of the material. Consider adding a mild soap, e.g. Ivory, to any wash water. **Do not use bleach, high pH soaps, or alcohol-based wipes.**
- A solution of water and 5% peracetic acid, or the 3-part Dahlgren Decon solution, should be used for decontamination of personnel or equipment and for treating decon wastewater. **Do not use bleach as a decon solution.**
 - If peracetic acid or Dahlgren Decon solution is not available, Dichlor/Trichlor, a stabilized, dry chlorine in powder or crushed tablet form, in a solution of 0.5 ounces of powder to 1 quart of water can be effective for decontaminating equipment and treating decon wastewater. **Do not use Dichlor/Trichlor on PPE or sensitive equipment. Do not mix Dichlor/Trichlor and hypochlorite solutions together. These solutions are incompatible and can be explosive.**
- Contaminated wastewater and related hazardous materials shall be captured for proper disposal. Typically, this is the responsibility of the responding law enforcement agency.
- Patients, prisoners, and responders should change their clothing and shower as soon as practical.