



SAFETY OUTLOOK

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What you don't know could kill you! Meet Fentanyl.

Ignorance can be a bliss at times, but in certain situations, it could be deadly! In recent years, there has been a rise in a new synthetic opioid called Fentanyl. It is one of the strongest drugs on the market. It is available in most hospitals for pain relief that can not be achieved through other drugs like morphine since Fentanyl is much more potent.

According to the CDC, 5,500 people died from synthetic opioid overdoses in 2014 – most of them were related to fentanyl.

- Fentanyl is 30-50 times more potent than heroin.
- Just 0.25 mg can kill you (That's like taking a baby aspirin and cutting it into 324 pieces!)

The main symptoms of Fentanyl abuse include drowsiness, lethargy, euphoria, and mellowness. It is not a long lasting drug so an abuser will increase their dose to a deadly level without realizing it's dangerous potential.

Unfortunately, East TN has seen a rise in the abuse of Fentanyl. In April 2017, the 24th Judicial District Drug Task Force seized 10 kilos of the deadly painkiller during a traffic stop on I-40 in Decatur County.



Law enforcement and emergency personnel in the Knoxville area now carry Naloxone, an overdose reversal drug, so they can administer it on the scene in order to save lives.

Let this newsletter be a warning! Only take prescriptions under a doctor's care and in the right dosage. Reach out for help if you begin to struggle with any drug addiction. It's not worth the risk! Life is too precious.

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