



May 2017

General Handling Guidelines for suspected Heroin, Fentanyl, or Fentanyl analogs:

At a minimum, suspected Heroin, Fentanyl or Fentanyl analogs should be handled with nitrile or latex gloves. Adequate ventilation should be provided to ensure absolutely no powder can be inhaled. If a powder is suspected to be, or possibly contains, Heroin, Fentanyl or Fentanyl analogs your agency should decide whether or not field testing should be conducted. The Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement has developed a policy where they do not field test these substances unless absolutely necessary. Your agency should develop its own policy. If a field test must be performed, based on investigatory needs, it should be done cautiously to avoid spillage of the powder and the appropriate personal protective equipment, including but not limited to nitrile gloves, protective dust mask or Air Purifying Respirator should be used.

All suspected heroin, fentanyl or fentanyl analogs should double-bagged and sealed in a clear evidence bag. It would be very beneficial to the crime laboratory to note on the evidence submission form that the unknown substance possibly contains heroin, fentanyl or one of its analogs. This helps ensure that our analysts who must go “hands-on” with the material are aware it is potentially this class of drug. In addition, we suggest you hand deliver suspected heroin, fentanyl or fentanyl analogs to the crime laboratory verses mailing or using a shipping service.

Informative Links –

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/fentanyl/risk.html>

Canadian Government Website:
<https://www.fentanylsafety.com/>

DEA Officer Safety Alert on Carfentanil
https://www.dea.gov/divisions/hq/2016/hq092216_attach.pdf

Your agency may want to consider having Naloxone (NARCAN) available to your officers. Information on this opioid reversal medication can be found at:

<https://idph.iowa.gov/mat/overdose>
https://pharmacy.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2016/10/iowa_naloxone_standing_order.pdf

If you have further questions, they can be directed to Jess Dunn – Supervisor of the Drug Section at the DCI Crime Laboratory 515-725-1500.