

Guidance to Protect First Responders

Protect yourself from exposure to illicit drugs, including fentanyl.

- Assess the scene for hazards that may indicate the presence of illicit drugs.
- Follow these safe work practices if illicit drugs are suspected to be present:
 - Do not smoke, eat, or drink while working in the area,
 - Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth even if wearing gloves,
 - Wash your hands with soap and water after leaving the area, and
 - Do not use hand sanitizer.
- Know what type(s) of personal protective equipment (PPE) to use and when to use it.

Learn more: www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/fentanyl



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Don't take it home with you. Protect your family from exposure to illicit drugs, including fentanyl.

When leaving a scene where illicit drugs were present or suspected to be present:

- Take off your gloves and dispose of them properly,
- Wash your hands with water and soap,
- Don't use hand sanitizer,
- Remove and launder your clothing if contaminated,
- Shower if necessary,
- Decontaminate equipment (radio, utility belt, etc.) according to your department's policies,
- Dispose of single use respiratory protection, and
- Decontaminate reusable PPE (i.e. respirator) according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

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