

FENTANYL OVERDOSE PREVENTION

Fentanyl is a powerful opioid that can quickly cause overdose. In King County, it's most common in pills. It's also found in powders, and on rare occasions in rock and black tar. Fentanyl or other opioids mixed with other drugs, including alcohol, cocaine, meth, or benzos is extremely dangerous. If you're going to use, follow these steps to decrease your risk of overdose.

1

FAKE PILLS LOOK REAL

Even experts often can't tell the difference. The only way to know 100% is if it's prescribed to you.

2

TEST IT

Test your supply with a fentanyl test strip, but even if it tests negative, take precautions. Fentanyl is unevenly distributed throughout pills, so it's possible to test part of a pill that doesn't have fentanyl, when another part of the same pill does. Overdose is possible even if the test is negative. Fentanyl test strips only test for fentanyl.

3

AVOID USING ALONE

If you overdose alone, no one is there to help. If you do use alone, try a service like neverusealone.com that can send help if you stop responding to a chat or phone call. Alternatively, have someone check on you often or use in a place where someone is more likely to find you, but know that these options are much riskier.

4

START SLOW

Don't take a full dose all at once. Start with a small amount and wait a while to see how you feel. If you decide to use more, increase slowly.

5

RECOGNIZE OVERDOSE

The biggest signs of opioid overdose are unresponsiveness (not waking up) and abnormal breathing (slow, shallow, or no breathing, or gurgling/snoring noises). Give them naloxone and call 911 immediately! The WA Good Samaritan Law protects everyone at the scene from drug possession charges.

6

HAVE NALOXONE (NARCAN)

If it's given in time, naloxone can reverse an opioid overdose. Tell others you have it, where it is, and when to use it. Naloxone is a very safe medication; don't hesitate to give it if you think it might be an overdose. Find naloxone near you at stopoverdose.org.