

KEEP CANNABIS AWAY FROM KIDS

CANNABIS CAN MAKE KIDS VERY SICK

- Accidental use by children includes inhaling and eating.
- Cannabis edibles can be confused with regular food or candy.
- Symptoms in children may include sleepiness, trouble breathing, difficulty walking or sitting up.



STORE IT SAFELY

- Keep it in a childproof container.
- Lock it up where it can't be seen or reached.
- Adjust how cannabis is stored: kid-proof for a young child may not stop older, curious kids and teens.



IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD HAS EATEN OR INHALED CANNABIS PRODUCTS

- **CALL POISON CONTROL: 1-800-222-1222**
- Calls are free and confidential.
- For immediate attention, call 911.



PLAN AHEAD. Keep your kids safe.

CANNABIS AND DRIVING DON'T MIX

DID YOU KNOW? IT'S ILLEGAL...

...TO DRIVE AFTER USING CANNABIS.
You can get a DUI for cannabis, alcohol, prescription medication or any other drug that can impair your ability to drive.

...TO HAVE AN OPEN CONTAINER IN A VEHICLE. Put it in the trunk.

...TO SMOKE OR CONSUME IN A VEHICLE.

A DUI CAN COST YOU:

- More than \$16,000 for a first conviction
- A criminal record
- Loss of driver's license
- Additional jail time if there are injuries

IT'S RISKY:

- Reduces reaction time
- Slows coordination
- Distorts perception
- In combination with alcohol, affects driving more than either alone

PLAN AHEAD. Get a ride, not a DUI.



As Ventura County's opioid problems rise, cops carry life-saving spray for public, selves

Some police departments across the country are adding NARCAN to their arsenal; a nasal spray that's capable of bringing people who have overdosed, back from the dead. VPC

With opioid deaths on the rise in Ventura County, patrol officers are encountering more overdose victims and risking contact with potentially deadly substances.

Now, several law enforcement agencies have equipped personnel with a seemingly humble new tool that



(Photo: CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/PORT HUENEME POLICE DEPARTMENT)

could save lives: nasal spray.

Called Narcan, the spray version of the medication naloxone can reverse opioid overdoses without a syringe. The spray comes in plastic dispensers similar to over-the-counter cold remedies. Opioids include prescription painkillers and illegal drugs such as heroin.

Narcan kits in patrol vehicles can save lives not only of overdose victims, officials say, but also fellow officers accidentally exposed to narcotics. Even police dogs could be rescued by the spray.

Although paramedics and firefighters carry similar medication, police officers often arrive on an emergency scene before medical crews. Minutes and even seconds can make a difference in an

overdose outcome, officials say. initial treatment by an officer would typically be taken over by medical personnel when paramedics arrive.



Port Hueneme Police Department patrol vehicles were recently stocked with emergency kits for opioid overdoses. A growing number of local law enforcement agencies now carry such kits in the field. (Photo: CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/PORT HUENEME POLICE DEPARTMENT)

Currently, police departments in Oxnard, Port Hueneme and Simi Valley have equipped some or all officers with Narcan. Some specialized Ventura County Sheriff's Office units also carry kits, and the Ventura County Probation Agency is scheduled to start training next month.

Port Hueneme Police Chief Andrew Salinas said he was made aware of the program last year during a meeting with the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department.

"I was all in," Salinas said. "With opioid overdoses on the rise, we are doing our part to help change this trend."

All of his department's 22 officers recently went through the required two-hour training session.

"We picked up our kits last week, and we are now fully deployed with this new tool that saves lives," Salinas said Monday.

The Simi Valley Police Department completed training in May and got kits into vehicles June 1, according to Cmdr. Ritchie Lew. So far, none of the 65 kits have been deployed in the field.

Kits have been used in Oxnard. At least five overdose victims have been treated since the Oxnard Police Department got 115 units in January, officials said. Sgt. Neil Holland said the medication has certainly saved lives.



A police officer in Nashville, Tenn., with a Narcan spray bottle. (Photo: Andrew Nefles / *The Tennessean*)

Thirty-six kits have been issued to the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, which has deployed them selectively in outlying areas.

All deputies at the sheriff's remote Lockwood Valley station in the Los Padres National Forest went through training, said Capt. Don Aguilar, who coordinates the sheriff's Narcan program. The strategy, he said, was to choose areas where deputies were most likely to arrive ahead of emergency medical crews.

Narcotics detectives and K-9 officers with potential to handle powerful opioids have also undergone training, Aguilar said, as have scientists in the crime lab, property room technicians and mail room clerks at the jail.

"We're looking at the highest potential for people to become exposed," he said.

Of special concern is the drug fentanyl, a synthetic opioid 50 to 100 times more powerful than morphine, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Fentanyl is a prescription drug but is also manufactured illegally, sometimes mixed with heroin or cocaine.

Last month, two undercover Alameda County Sheriff's Department investigators were exposed to airborne fentanyl while raiding a motel room in Hayward. One detective passed out and stopped breathing. A sergeant administered two doses of Narcan before his colleague was revived.

"If it was not for Narcan, one of our detectives would have died from a suspected fentanyl exposure," the agency tweeted in late June. "A sergeant was also exposed and became very ill."

From the California Department of Public Health and its Opioid Overdose Surveillance Dashboard, here are some numbers on the state's opioid problem. Steve Byerly

During an incident in Thousand Oaks last month, local sheriff's officials discovered a manufacturing lab in an apartment complex where the suspect reportedly had concentrated samples of fentanyl on site. A specialized team from Los Angeles that dismantles drug labs had to clear the scene in hazardous-materials suits.

"It's such a dangerous thing. It's the only job they do," said Ventura County Sheriff's Office Detective Stephen Egnatchik, who worked the Thousand Oaks incident.

Ventura County saw 92 opioid deaths in 2017, up from 55 in 2016, according to county figures, an uptick that mirrors what has been called a national epidemic.

County officials began tracking opioid and heroin data in 2012 before convening a work group in 2014 that included meeting with local law enforcement agencies, said Loretta Denering, chief of alcohol and drug programs for the Ventura County Health Care Agency's Behavioral Health Department.

"Ventura County has been very proactive as far as recognizing the extent of how the opioid crisis hit locally," Denering said.

Statewide efforts: [California moves to expand access to opioid antidote](#)

The meetings ultimately led to the program now in place. Narcan spray became available in 2016, making the prospect of carrying the drug in patrol vehicles more manageable. Grants so far have covered the cost of the kits for the law enforcement agencies, officials said.

Narcan has no known adverse effects if given to someone who is not actually overdosing and is said to have no potential for abuse, authorities say. The medication is only effective with opioid overdoses.

Officer training includes a classroom lecture, a written exam and a skills demonstration on a mannequin, said Chris Rosa, deputy administrator of the county's Emergency Medical Services Agency.

Qualified community members can also get Narcan kits, said Kim O'Neil, executive director of Project SAFER, a nonprofit group that has been involved in the county's Narcan program. About 2,289 kits have been provided to community members since 2014, she said, with about 337 "saves" from deployments during an overdose.

Interested residents can get more information on Narcan kits by calling the Opiate Overdose and Prevention Project at 805-667-6663.



NAMI Walks

National Affiance on Mental Illness

ABOUT NAMIWALKS Ventura County

Walk with us for mental health! NAMI is proud to host its largest and most successful mental health awareness and fundraising event in the country. Through NAMIWalks' public active display of support, we are changing how Americans view mental illness. Please join us as we improve lives and our communities one step at a time

DATE: Saturday, October 13, 2018

LOCATION: San Buenaventura State Beach parking Lot (Pier Lot)

CHECK-IN BEGINS: 9:00 A.M.

WALK START TIME: 10:30 A.M.

REGISTER: www.namiwalks.org/venturacounty

At our NAMIWalks event:

- There is no registration fee. However, participants are encouraged to collect donations from family members, friends and co-workers, which is done most successfully through the NAMIWalks website: www.namiwalks.org/venturacounty
- Companies, organizations and families are encouraged to organize teams of walkers made up of employees, organization members, relatives and friends.
- Donations collected by walkers will be used to fund NAMI's local programs, including support, education and advocacy for people and families right here in our region.
- All walkers raising \$100 or more will receive a 2018 NAMIWalks T-shirt. Walkers may be eligible for additional prizes!
- NAMIWalks is a rain or shine event!



For more information, [email: walk@namiventura.org](mailto:walk@namiventura.org)