



# General Order

## Department of Fire & EMS

G.O. 9-1-2023

Subject: Increase in Overdose Patients and Deaths

Date: September 12, 2023

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A notification was shared this morning regarding a significant increase in overdose incidents and deaths. Within the last 12 hours, Harrisburg City reported 15 overdoses with four confirmed deaths. The deaths are a result of a bad batch of crack-cocaine. The other overdoses were a result of some synthetic in packaging not seen by responders before. While this is currently occurring in Harrisburg City, please consider drug traffic sales permeate throughout the South-Central Pennsylvania Region. There is a possibility other county may begin to see the uptick in overdose incidents.

At this time, there is not enough information regarding the specific substances leading to the increase in fatalities. Providers are encouraged to maintain a high index of suspicion when patients present with clinical signs and symptoms of overdose on illicit substances. Patients should be treated with Narcan per the Maryland State EMS Protocols and transported for further evaluation, management and a period of emergency department observation. If a patient would like to refuse transport, please carefully evaluate the patient's capacity to do so, counsel the patient regarding the increase in fatal overdoses and encourage further evaluation. Please consult with the base station physician when appropriate for further guidance.

Thank you all for your continued commitment to providing the highest level of patient care to the citizens of our county.