

OVERDOSE ALERT - Posted March 19, 2021



There has been another fatal opioid overdose (pending lab confirmation) in Owen Sound. Three fatal overdoses in Owen Sound this week alone have been reported by police. This is in addition to an ongoing trend of multiple overdoses within Grey and Bruce this year. Anecdotally there have been at least 8 fatal overdoses this year alone (pending Coroner confirmation). It is assumed that fentanyl or carfentanil are involved, in this case, a grey chalk-like product is suspected. Other reports indicate substances of differing colors, blue, yellow, pink, purple. All street drugs must be considered highly toxic, with fatal potential.

Take extra caution by:

- Avoiding using alone. When using with someone else, avoid using at the same time. Call the OVERDOSE PREVENTION LINE at 1-888-688-6677 (NORS) if you must use alone
- Avoiding mixing different drugs. Mixing drugs, including alcohol, increases the risk of overdose.
- Going slow. Use smaller amounts and do test doses to check the strength of the drug.
- Knowing your tolerance. The current street supply may be toxic and fatal.
- Getting overdose prevention training and carrying a Naloxone kit.

Overdose is a medical emergency. Call 911 or go to the Emergency Department. The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act provides protection from simple possession charges when 911 is called for an overdose.

Naloxone is available for free from pharmacies and at the Grey Bruce Health Unit Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 4 pm, no appointment needed.

For those looking for support: Mental Health Crisis Line of Grey Bruce: 1-877-470-5200, ConnexOntario: 1-866-531-2600 or the Rapid Access Addiction Medicine Clinic: 519-376-3999.