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# FENTANYL: HOW TO KEEP YOUR STAFF & RESIDENTS SAFE

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# About the Speaker

**Ronell Bracy-Martin, BDM E. WA / N. ID**

I work in property restoration, where we're often called in to safely remediate hazardous environments—including fentanyl contamination. Through that experience, I've seen firsthand both the real risks and the common misconceptions around fentanyl safety.



# FENTYNYAL: How to keep Staff & Residence Safe

-  [Quick History of the Fentanyl Epidemic](#)
-  [Common Misconceptions of Fentanyl](#)
-  [Fentanyl Safety for your Team](#)
-  [Call an Expert in Biohazard Clean up](#)





# Fentanyl Epidemic

## Quick History

“The fentanyl crisis in Washington didn’t start with fentanyl—it evolved from prescription opioids to heroin, and now to a highly potent synthetic drug that dominates today’s overdose landscape.”

“Fentanyl exists in multiple forms—from medical patches and sprays to illicit powders and fake pills—but in the field, we’re most concerned with the unregulated powder and residue that can create hazardous environments.”



# QUICK HISTORY OF THE Fentanyl Epidemic IN WASHINGTON STATE



**PRESCRIPTION  
OPIOIDS**

1990s - Early 2000s



**HEROIN**

2010-2017 After  
Crackdown on RX  
Drugs



**FENTANYL**

2014 - 2018 Intro  
of Fentanyl



**OVERDOSE  
DEATHS**

**1,000s**

Current  
Epidemic

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# Fentanyl

## Common Misconceptions

- “Just touching fentanyl can kill you instantly.”
- “You can clean it up like a normal spill.”
- “If you can’t see it, it’s not there.”
- “Any cleaning company can handle it.”
- “Bleach alone solves the problem.”
- “PPE is optional if you’re careful.”
- “Once cleaned, there’s no need for verification.”

# What To Do If You Touch **Fentanyl**



## 1. Don't Panic

- Brief skin contact alone is **very unlikely** to cause harm
- Risk increases if it's inhaled or transferred to eyes, nose, or mouth



## 2. Wash Immediately

- Wash the area with **soap and water**
- Use plenty of water and wash thoroughly
- 👉 **DO NOT use:**
  - Hand sanitizer
  - Alcohol-based cleaners(These can increase absorption through the skin)



## 3. Avoid Touching Your Face

Until you've washed, avoid touching:

- Eyes
- Nose
- Mouth

## 4. Remove Contaminated Items (if applicable)

If powder is on clothing or gloves:

- Remove carefully
- Avoid shaking (can make particles airborne)



## 5. Monitor for Symptoms (Rare but Important)

Watch for:

- Dizziness
- Drowsiness
- Slow or difficult breathing

### IF SYMPTOMS APPEAR:

- Call 911 immediately
- Administer naloxone (Narcan) if available

# When You Should Have **Narcan** on Hand



## 1. Around Opioid Use

- Prescription **opioid users**
- People using heroin, fentanyl, etc.



## 2. In High-Risk Work Environments

- First responders
- Restoration/cleanup crews
- Property/security staff



## 3. When Fentanyl Exposure is Possible

- Drug contamination sites
- Cleanup of unknown powders



## 4. Around Vulnerable Individuals

- Recently transitioned from jail/prison
- After rehab/detox programs



## 5. In Public/Community Settings

- Schools and workplaces
- Hotels and public venues



# Do we need Narcan on site?



## Good Rule of Thumb

If you're asking:

“Should we have Narcan?”

The answer is almost always **YES.**



If you're asking:  
“Should we have Narcan?”

**NARCAN**  
Naloxone HCl Nasal Spray 4 mg  
Emergency Treatment of Opioid Overdose

Original Prescription Strength  
Easy to Use  
Can Save a Life

Designed to Rapidly Reverse the Effects of a Life-Threatening Opioid Emergency

2 Single-Dose Nasal Spray Devices  
0.003 fl oz (0.1 mL) each  
For use in nose only

USE AS DIRECTED.

- ✓ EMERGENCY TREATMENT OF OPIOID OVERDOSE
- ✓ ORIGINAL PRESCRIPTION STRENGTH
- ✓ EASY TO USE
- ✓ CAN SAVE A LIFE
- ✓ 2 SINGLE-DOSE NASAL SPRAY DEVICES



# Fentanyl Safety for Your Team



## Drug Paraphernalia is found outside....

Routine Property Clean up and Maintenance can uncover drugs and or drug paraphernalia on your properties.

## What is our Next Step?

Ensuring your team has the appropriate equipment to clean up these items on site is vital to the team safety.

## Call an Expert for Clean up

When in doubt... Call a Certified company to address the Biohazard Clean up required.

**“ Paraphernalia isn’t just trash— it can be an indicator of risk, exposure, and the need for proper safety precautions.”**

**1**

### Injection-Related Items



- Needles / syringes
- Burnt spoons or bottle caps

**2**

### Smoking / Inhalation Devices



- Glass or crack pipes
- Burnt foil

**3**

### Powder / Pill Use Items



- Baggies with powder or pills
- Razor blades or cards (cutting lines)

**4**

### Fentanyl-Specific Indicators



- Blue pills (often marked “M30”)
- Burnt foil (“chasing the dragon”)

**5**

### Packaging & Miscellaneous



- Small digital scales
- Trash with repeated items

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# Proper Items for **Safe Cleanup** (Fentanyl Risk)

1

## PPE



- Gloves, respirator
- Eye protection

2

## Handling Tools



- Tongs / grabbers
- Sharps container

3

## Cleaning Supplies



- Soap & water
- Disinfectant

4

## Disposal



- Biohazard bags
- Proper containers

5

## Disposal



- Biohazard bags
- Proper containers

5

## Safety



- Narcan
- First aid / communication

### Do NOT:

- Handle items with bare hands
- Shake debris or clothing (can aerosolize particles)
- Use compressed air or Dry sweeping

### Do:

- Work slowly and deliberately
- Assume unknown substances are hazardous
- Wash hands thoroughly after cleanup

# Call and Expert for Clean Up

## What Certifications should a company have?

“There’s no single fentanyl certification—but a qualified company should be trained in hazardous materials, drug lab cleanup, and OSHA safety standards, with proper protocols and disposal compliance.”



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## Certifications & Training Needed

What a **Qualified** Company Should Have for Proper Fentanyl Cleanup

1

### OSHA HAZWOPER (Required Foundation)

- 40-hour HAZWOPER certification
- **Required** baseline standard



2

### Hazardous Materials / Biohazard Training

- Bloodborne pathogens (OSHA compliant)
- Biohazard remediation training
- Scene safety & contamination control



3

### Drug Lab & Fentanyl-Specific Training

- Clandestine drug lab cleanup
- Fentanyl hazard awareness & remediation protocols
- Often provided by NORMI, Andecon, specialized



**Simple Talking Point:** “There’s no single fentanyl certification—look for experience with hazardous materials, drug lab cleanup, and safety standards.”

# Call and Expert for Clean Up

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“There’s no single fentanyl certification—but a qualified company should be trained in hazardous materials, drug lab cleanup, and OSHA safety standards, with proper protocols and disposal compliance.”



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## Company-Level Requirements

Essential Credibility for Drug Lab / Fentanyl Remediation

### 6 Proper Licensing (Varies by State)

- Biohazard cleanup licenses
- Drug lab remediation certification
- Washington State may require compliance with Department of Health / Ecology guidelines



### 7 EPA & Waste Disposal Compliance

- Registered hazardous waste handling procedures
- Contracts with licensed medical / hazardous waste disposal companies



### 8 Written Safety & Decontamination Protocols

- SOPs for fentanyl exposure
- Cross-contamination prevention
- PPE usage

**Simple Talking Point:** “There’s no single fentanyl certification—look for experience with hazardous materials, drug lab cleanup, and safety standards.”

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## Red Flags Quick Checklist



### NO HAZWOPER TRAINING

- No 40-hour HAZWOPER or hazmat certification



### NO RESPIRATORY PROGRAM

- No fit tests, medical clearance, or PPE plan



### TREATING IT LIKE STANDARD CLEANING

- Ignoring the specialized nature of fentanyl / hazardous material cleanup



### NO HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN

- No registered procedures or disposal partnerships



**Simple Talking Point:** “There’s no single fentanyl certification—look for experience with hazardous materials, drug lab cleanup, and safety standards.”



## Who Should Determine the Extent of Fentanyl Contamination?

### Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) or Industrial Hygienist

- ✓ Trained in hazardous materials assessment
  - ✓ Understands sampling, exposure risk, and contamination pathways
  - ✓ Independent from remediation contractor (preferred for objectivity)
- ➔ In some cases:
- Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH)
  - Environmental consultant with drug lab/fentanyl experience







### Simple Talking Point:

“The scope should be determined by a qualified third-party environmental professional—not the cleanup contractor—to ensure accuracy and avoid conflicts of interest.”





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# Thank You

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