

# Press Release

## West Fargo Fire Department Responds to Hazmat Situation

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For immediate release

4/28/2017

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, 2017, the West Fargo Fire Department was requested to investigate a spill of what was suspected to be a form of the drug Fentanyl by the West Fargo Police Department. Upon arrival, Chief Fuller established command and investigated. It was found that an unknown quantity of the drug was mixed with a liquid and then spilled after two males were exposed to the drug. It is unknown if the exposure was the result of the spill or the spill occurred after an intentional ingestion of the drug.

The Fargo Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team was contacted for a consultation; it was determined that the risk to life from the spill was great enough to have the West Fargo Fire Department contain and isolate the drug. Some forms of the drug Fentanyl are powerful enough to kill a human with a dose as little as 3 milligrams.

Members of the West Fargo Fire Department entered the residence in Level B hazmat protection with self-contained breathing apparatus. Every surface that was contaminated was removed, triple bagged and sealed with chemical tape. A mattress was also saturated with the drug and it was wrapped in plastic and sealed with chemical tape as well. The items were picked up in a dumpster by the West Fargo Sanitation Department and brought directly to the Fargo Landfill, where they were buried last night, with the coordination of the ND Department of Health. Entry team members were decontaminated with a solution of water, Simple Green, and bleach. Entry suits were also disposed of. Command was terminated and all fire department units returned to service.

For additional questions, contact

Daniel Fuller, Chief of the Department

West Fargo Fire Department

106 1<sup>st</sup> St

West Fargo, ND 58078

701.433.5380 (w)

701.373.5311 (c)

701.433.5381 (f)