

SOUTH KINGSTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

1790 KINGSTOWN RD., WAKEFIELD, RI 02879



POLICY NUMBER	ORDER TYPE	ORIGINAL ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
460.07	OPERATIONAL POLICY	12/12/16	05/06/20
CHAPTER : SUBSECTION		TITLE	
LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS : EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS		OPIOID OVERDOSE RESPONSE	
REVIEW DATES		REVISION DATES	
05/06/20		05/06/20	
DISTRIBUTION	REFERENCE		PAGES
SWORN PERSONNEL			4

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures governing the response of officers to an opioid overdose and the utilization of NARCAN® Nasal Spray issued to officers of the South Kingstown Police Department.

This policy recognizes the potential life-saving role officers play in their encounters with persons suffering from an apparent opioid overdose. As such, members need to recognize the signs and symptoms of a potential overdose as they attempt to protect and aid the individual at the earliest stage possible.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the South Kingstown Police Department to assist any person who may be suffering from an apparent opioid overdose. Sworn members trained in accordance with this policy shall make every reasonable effort, to include the use of NARCAN® combined with rescue breaths, to revive the victim of an apparent drug overdose.

III. DEFINITIONS

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) –provide pre-hospital emergency medical care; such practitioners deliver out-of-hospital care for those with an illness or injury.

NARCAN® (naloxone hydrochloride) Nasal Spray – an opioid antagonist indicated for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose, as manifested by respiratory and/or central nervous system depression.

Opioids – Heroin, fentanyl, morphine, buprenorphine, codeine, hydromorphone,

hydrocodone, oxymorphone, methadone, oxycodone - (examples, not inclusive).

Opioid Overdose – An acute condition including, but not limited to, extreme physical illness, decreased level of consciousness, respiratory depression, coma, or death resulting from the consumption or use of an opioid, or another substance combined with an opioid, or that a layperson would reasonably believe to be an opioid-related drug overdose that requires medical assistance.

Universal Precautions – An approach to infection control to treat all human blood and certain human bodily fluids as if they were known to be infectious for any blood-borne pathogen.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. Training

1. Prior to issue, officers shall receive training in the administration of NARCAN® and basic opioid information.
2. Appropriate personnel will receive refresher training every two (2) years. This may be done in conjunction with CPR/AED training.
3. The Training Officer shall serve as the departments' coordinator for the NARCAN® program.

B. Issuance

1. NARCAN® will be provided in a kit, clearly marked “Opioid Overdose Kit” and will include the following:
 - Instructions for administering NARCAN®
 - One (1) or more NARCAN® units
2. All patrol vehicles are supplied with First Aid kits that include protective gear, to be used when administering NARCAN®.
3. All officers on patrol and trained in the use of NARCAN® will bring an opioid overdose kit with them in their duty bag.

C. Use of NARCAN®

If an officer of this department encounters a victim of what appears to be a drug overdose, the officer shall follow the protocols from their training, as outlined here:

1. Maintain universal precautions throughout the overdose incident.
2. Notify Dispatch of a possible opioid overdose in progress and request EMS response as well as an additional officer to provide scene cover and control.
3. Keep Dispatch informed of the condition of the overdose victim.
4. Perform assessment – Check unresponsiveness, vital signs such as breathing and pulse. (Is the subject awake and talking; responsive to verbal stimulation only; responsive to painful stimulation only; or completely unresponsive?)
5. Check for medical alert tags or bracelets indicating a preexisting medical condition (around wrists, neck or ankles).

6. Before administering NARCAN®, the officer shall ensure the subject is in a safe location and remove any sharp or heavy objects from the subject's immediate reach.
7. Be aware that the sudden onset of immediate opioid withdrawal may result in physical symptoms such as agitation, rapid heart rate, nausea, seizures, and difficulty breathing.
8. Administer NARCAN® according to training.
9. If the victim's condition does not improve (victim remains unconscious, no breathing or pulse) within 2-3 minutes of administering NARCAN®, a second dose, if available, may be administered.
10. Seize all illegal and/or non-prescribed narcotics found on the victim or around the area of the overdose.
11. Once used, the NARCAN® unit is considered bio-hazardous material and shall be turned over to EMS or hospital personnel for proper disposal as soon as possible following its use.
12. Any victim who is treated with NARCAN® and refuses medical transport will be taken into protective custody and transported by rescue to a medical facility.

D. Reporting

1. A 'No Crime' offense report (OF) titled 'NARCAN® Administration' will be created for documentation purposes, after any administration of NARCAN®. This report shall include a description of the victim's condition and behavior prior to and after the administration of NARCAN®, any actions taken by the officer (yelling at, sternum rub, rescue breaths, etc...), the fact that NARCAN® was administered, medical response, hospital transported to, any narcotics seized and final outcome.
2. If an arrest occurs on-scene the arrest report will be linked to the offense report and indicate whether the arrestee was the person who reported the suspected overdose. This enables tracking for the Good Samaritan Law.
3. The above reports shall be submitted to the officer's OIC for approval and a copy forwarded to the Training Officer for purposes of tracking NARCAN® administration and opioid overdoses.

E. Storage and replacement

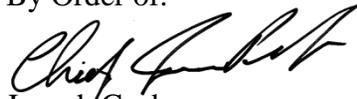
1. Inspection of opioid overdose shall be the responsibility of each officer issued a kit. The inspection of any other kits is the responsibility of the Training Officer. All kits shall be inspected on a regular basis by checking the expiration date and for damage to the unit.
2. Opioid overdose kits will be stored in accordance with manufacturer's instructions in a department issued storage container to avoid direct sunlight or extreme cold or heat. Kits will not be permanently stored in vehicles.
3. Spare opioid overdose kits will be stored in the Patrol Lieutenant's office for replacement of used, missing, damaged or expired NARCAN®.
4. The Training Officer will be notified by e-mail of any missing, damaged or expired NARCAN® by the officer assigned the kit, in order to replace the spares in the

Lieutenant's office in a timely fashion.

F. Provisions

1. In accordance with RIGL 21-28.9-4, The Good Samaritan Overdose Prevention Act of 2016:
 - a. "Any person who, in good faith, without malice and in the absence of evidence of an intent to defraud, seeks medical assistance for someone experiencing a drug or alcohol overdose or other drug- or alcohol-related medical emergency shall not be charged or prosecuted for any crime related to the possession of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia, or the operation of a drug-involved premises, if the evidence for the charge was gained as a result of the seeking of medical assistance.
 - b. A person who experiences a drug or alcohol overdose or other drug- or alcohol-related medical emergency and is in need of medical assistance shall not be charged or prosecuted for any crime related to the possession of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia, possession or transportation of alcohol by an underage person, or the operation of a drug-involved premises, if the evidence for the charge was gained as a result of the overdose and the need for medical assistance.
 - c. The act of providing first aid or other medical assistance to someone who is experiencing a drug or alcohol overdose or other drug or alcohol-related medical emergency may be used as a mitigating factor in a criminal prosecution pursuant to the controlled substances act.
 - d. The immunity related to the possession of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia, possession or transportation of alcohol by an underage person, or the operation of a drug-involved premises afforded under this section shall also extend to a violation of probation and/or parole on those grounds."
 - e. None of the above prevents a person from being charged with crimes involving the manufacture or possession with intent to manufacture or deliver a controlled substance.
2. Under RIGL 21-28.9-3, Authority to Administer Opioid Antagonist – Release from Liability, dated 2016, any person can administer naloxone to another person if he or she, in good faith, believes the individual is experiencing a drug overdose and acts with reasonable care in administering the drug to the overdose victim.
3. Any officer who administers naloxone in accordance with this policy shall be deemed to be acting in compliance with RIGL 21-28.9-3 and not subject to civil liability or criminal prosecution.

By Order of:



Joseph Geaber
Chief of Police