



Northeast Ohio Regional Fusion Center

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FIRE SERVICE AWARENESS BULLETIN

Carfentanil

(U//FOUO) From January to June, Akron paramedics responded to about 320 drug overdose calls. In the three weeks between July 5 and July 26, paramedics logged 236. The dramatic spike, from two or fewer per day to 11 or more, is thought to be the result of the introduction of carfentanil to the Akron drug market. The heroin-like drug is so potent it's used to sedate elephants in zoos. "Without toxicology reports, it's hard to know for sure," Lt. Rick Edwards said, "but it's looking like this is because of carfentanil." So far this year, 63 people have died of drug overdoses in Akron. Twenty of the deaths can be attributed to the ongoing spike. "And it's not just Akron," Edwards said. Suburbs of Akron have been begun reporting spikes in drug overdoses, and even cities as far as Cincinnati and Columbus have contacted Akron police to report similar trends. Two people have been arrested in connection with some of the recent overdoses.ⁱ

Carfentanil

(U//DSEN) Carfentanil or carfentanyl (2- hydroxypropane-1, 2, 3-tricarboxylic acid; methyl 1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-(Npropanoylanilino) piperidine-4-carboxylate) is a Scheduled II synthetic opioid analgesic fentanyl that is considered to be the most potent commercially used opioid and one of the most potent opiates. The drug, marketed under the trade name Wildnil, is typically only used as an anesthetic for large animals (elephants/rhinoceroses). According to the National Center for Biotechnology, carfentanil is approximately 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times stronger than fentanyl.ⁱⁱ

- (U//FOUO) **EMS Provider Note** – Naloxone (Narcan), an opioid antidote will reverse the effects of a carfentanil overdose. Due to the lethality and potency of carfentanil multiple doses of Naloxone may be needed to revive a patient. However, depending on the amount of carfentanil in the heroin, multiple doses of Naloxone still may not be effective enough to reverse the effects. However, Akron Deputy Fire Chief Charles Twigg said "Reports from the field indicate that this particular drug was less responsive to Narcan".ⁱⁱⁱ

(U//DSEN) DEA reporting indicates that chemical manufacturers in China may be using both the regular internet and underground internet sites to send carfentanil to U.S. distributors that repackage the drug for sale to the retail market. This poses a grave risk to the U.S. market— especially as federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies grapple with the current nationwide heroin and fentanyl epidemics and struggle to curb overdose deaths and injuries attributed to synthetic opiate analogs.^{iv}



ⁱ Akron Beacon Journal Overdoses continue spiking in Akron, surpass 200 in less than a month **26 July 2016**

ⁱⁱ DEA-MIA-BUL-159-16 Carfentanil: A Potential Drug Threat from China **June 2016**

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/heroin-overdoses-akron-ohio-elephant-animal-sedative/>

^{iv} DEA-MIA-BUL-159-16 Carfentanil: A Potential Drug Threat from China **June 2016**