*** MEDIA RELEASE ***

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Community Alert - Suspected Fentanyl Overdoses

Over the last week, Monterey Peninsula law enforcement agencies have been dispatched to an increasing number of calls related to overdoses of counterfeit drugs suspected of containing fentanyl. Since Friday, October 18, 2019, the past several days, law enforcement has been made aware of five overdoses on the peninsula. It is suspected there are additional unreported overdoses.

In one extremely tragic instance a juvenile female died. On that incident, which occurred on October 18, 2019, Seaside public safety personnel responded to a call of a female juvenile who was unconscious and not breathing. First responders arrived on scene and began providing medical aid. The juvenile was transported to CHOMP where she was pronounced deceased. It was later determined the juvenile ingested an unknown pill prior to losing consciousness.

In some of the reported overdose instances, individuals related taking what they believed were 30 mg oxycodone or Percocet pills. On September 30, 2019, Monterey County issued a press release regarding similar pills being found to contain fentanyl. A copy of Monterey County’s press release is attached. Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opiate which can cause respiratory distress and death. Fentanyl is odorless and tasteless and law enforcement is beginning to see it laced into other drugs to increase potency.
If an overdose is suspected, 911 should be called immediately to obtain medical assistance.

Public Safety and medical personnel view this issue as a grave danger and while parents should discuss this with their teenaged children, everyone should be talking about this issue with their loved ones to ensure people understand the danger of taking non-prescribed medications. While this media release focuses on potential counterfeit pills as pictured above, there is severe danger in taking any prescription medication that has not been prescribed to that individual and obtained from a legitimate pharmacy. Counterfeit pills could look like the ones pictured above or other medications.

In addition to this public safety advisory, Law enforcement is actively investigating the criminal aspect of selling/providing the counterfeit pills. PRVNT is assisting in the investigation of these overdoses and anyone with information is encouraged to call investigators at 831-646-6926 or if you wish to remain anonymous contact the Tip-Line at 831-646-3840.

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For Immediate Release

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