

TEMAGAMI FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

SECTION: DEPARTMENT POLICIES & PROCEDURES

SUBJECT: Naloxone: Carrying, Storage and Deployment

DATE: July 2, 2019

NO. 0009

Background

Death from drug-related overdose is a leading cause of accidental death in Ontario. Naloxone is an opioid antagonist used to temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdoses.

All fire services in Ontario are eligible to receive Naloxone to prevent overdoses, and potentially to help firefighters in case of an exposure to opioids. Naloxone is available for Fire Departments to order through the Timiskaming Health Unit.

Definitions

Opioid: Medications or drugs that are derived from the opium poppy or that mimic the effect of an opiate. Opiate drugs are narcotic sedatives that depress activity of the central nervous system; these will reduce pain, induce sleep, and in overdose, will cause people to stop breathing. Firefighters may encounter opiates in the form of morphine, methadone, codeine, heroin, fentanyl, oxycodone (OxyContin® and Percocet®), and hydrocodone (Vicodin®).

Naloxone: A medication that can be used to temporarily reverse the effects of an opiate overdose. Specifically, it displaces opioids from the receptors in the brain that control the central nervous system and respiratory system. It is marketed under various trademarks, including Narcan®.

Policy

The Temagami Fire Department will ensure:

1. That Naloxone is properly stored, carried and deployed to ensure its efficacy in response to an opioid overdose.
2. That each member of the Fire Department is trained in preventing, recognizing and responding to an overdose with the use of Naloxone.
3. That Naloxone kits will be replaced on as need bases, based on the guidelines set out in the procedure.
4. Timely reporting to Timiskaming Health Unit will be completed utilizing the appropriate forms as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding
5. Deployment of Naloxone shall conform to provision of services under the establishing and regulating by-law, all applicable provincial and federal laws and directives

Carrying Naloxone

Storage of Naloxone Naloxone must be stored in a cool dry place, stored between the temperatures of 15-25 C, and kept out of the reach of children.

Deployment of Naloxone

Temagami Fire Department is authorized under Establishing and Regulation By-law to provide Emergency First Aid and CPR when ambulance services are unavailable for life-threatening emergencies. Naloxone is to be deployed when there is a suspected overdose. A signs of a suspected opioid overdose include:

- The individual can't be woken up
- Breathing is slow or has stopped
- Snoring or gurgling sounds
- Fingernails and lips are blue or purple
- Pupils are tiny (pinned) or eyes are rolled back
- Body is limp

Naloxone will be administered in a five step process:

- 1) Stimulate: Shake the individual's shoulders, shout their name, apply a sternal rub
- 2) Ensure the ambulance is being deployed
- 3) Give CPR including rescue breathing
- 4) Give Naloxone at any time: Make sure they are lying on their back. Insert tip of nozzle into one nostril. Press the plunger firmly, resuming CPR.
- 5) Evaluate, is it working? Continue compressions until the person responds or the ambulance arrives. If they are not awake after 2-3 minutes, administer the second dose of Naloxone. Describe to the EMS how many doses of Naloxone have been given.

Recovery Position: If the person begins to breathing on their own place them in recovery position.

Training for the Deployment of Naloxone

The Fire Department is responsible to ensure each Fire Fighter is trained on preventing, recognizing and responding to overdose. Each firefighter will be trained in the deployment of Naloxone for an opioid overdose, PRIOR to being authorized to administering Naloxone.

Ordering & Reordering Naloxone Kits

The Fire departments is eligible to order two Naloxone kits per firefighting vehicle. Initial ordering & re-ordering will occur by submitting the Naloxone Order Form Appendix A. This duty is the responsibility of the Fire Chief

Reordering will occur:

- A month before the Naloxone expires.
- When Naloxone and been deployed and needs to be replaced.
- When a new service vehicle is deployed and needs to be stocked with Naloxone.
- If the Naloxone is lost or stolen.
- If the current supply Naloxone temperature exceeds or is below 15-25 Celsius

Reporting

As outlined in the memorandum of understanding with the Temiskaming Health Unit, the fire department is responsible to ensure timely quarterly reporting to the Public Health Unit utilizing the 'Police and Fire Quarterly Reporting Form' attached as Appendix B. The reporting form must be submitted at least 5 business days prior to the due date listed on the bottom of the form.

This duty is the responsibility of the Fire Chief in our Fire Department.

APPROVED BY: original signed by Jim Sanderson July 2, 2019
Fire Chief Date

TFD - SIGN OFF SHEET - OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Operational Guideline #0009 - Naloxone: Carrying, Storage and Deployment

All personnel shall sign this document to signify that they have read the material and are aware and understand the content of the above noted Operational Guideline

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