



# Scarborough Fire Department

B. Michael Thurlow, Fire Chief

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## GENERAL ORDER

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TO: ALL PERSONNEL ORDER #: 17-005 DATE ISSUED: 1/31/2017  
SUBJECT: NARCAN ADMINISTRATION BY NON-EMS LICENSED PERSONNEL DATE RECINDED:

PER ORDER OF: *B. Michael Thurlow*, Fire Chief

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In recognition of the rising number of fatal opioid overdoses the legislature passed a law allowing non-EMS licensed municipal law enforcement officers and firefighters who have received the appropriate training to administer Narcan (Naloxone) to unresponsive patients with signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose.

- Opioid overdoses from drugs such as heroin, fentanyl, morphine, codeine, oxycodone, methadone, hydrocodone, oxycontin, dilaudid and others, used alone or in combination with other drugs, can cause severe respiratory depression and respiratory arrest.
- The primary patient care goal in cases of opioid overdoses is to maintain a clear airway and assure the patient maintains a respiratory rate of at least 12 breaths per minute.
- When, based on their training, non-EMS licensed personnel who reasonably believe that the respiratory depression is, or could be the result of an opioid overdose, should administer Narcan.
- Only non-EMS licensed personnel who have received authorized training in the administration of Narcan may administer the medication per this general order.
- EMS licensed providers will follow the Maine EMS protocols when they administer Narcan.
- When responding to a reported overdose call, scene safety must be a top priority of responding members including but not limited to assuring there is nothing within the reach of the patient that could be used as a weapon against the responder.
- Universal precautions must be used when treating patients suspected of an opioid overdose, not only to protect against bodily fluid contamination, but also to avoid the responder from accidental absorption of the drug.
- When an opioid overdose patient becomes responsive, the responder should assure the patient is placed in the "recovery position" as demonstrated during training so that fluids can drain from the patient's mouth and not obstruct the patient's airway or caused aspiration.
- If the patient does not become responsive after administering the total amount of Narcan supplied, the firefighter should look for other causes, Medic Alert Tags or signs of possible traumatic injuries.
- The personnel administering Narcan must report the time and amount of the medication given to the patient, to the responding EMS crew.
- Caution must be used when a patient is revived after administration of Narcan for 2 reasons: 1<sup>st</sup> the patient may become combative, and 2<sup>nd</sup> since Narcan's effects can be short lived, the patient needs to be closely monitored and may need additional doses to remain conscious.
- Refresher training will be offered annually.
- The Narcan is located on the primary EMS response vehicle at each fire station.