



TRAINING BULLETIN

Volume LII, Issue 16, December 2023

Michel R. Moore, Chief of Police

CANNABIS AND CANNABIS PRODUCTS

The purpose of this Training Bulletin is to present information on cannabis and cannabis products, with regards to identification, packaging, signs and symptoms of usage, and enforcement of related laws.

Cannabis – Defined. Cannabis means, all parts of the plant *Cannabis sativa L.*, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant, its seeds or resin.

Cannabis Products – Defined. Cannabis products means, cannabis that has undergone a process whereby the plant material has been transformed into a concentrate, including, but not limited to, concentrated cannabis, or an edible or topical product containing cannabis or concentrated cannabis and other ingredients.

Cannabis, also known as marijuana, is a high Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content derivative of the natural hemp plant (hemp generally contains less than 0.3% THC). Cannabis refers to the dried flowers, leaves, stems, and seeds. Cannabis is commonly referred to as “weed,” “pot,” “grass,” “420,” “chronic,” “bud,” and “smoke.” Cannabis has become one of the most commonly used recreational drugs in the United States.

BACKGROUND

Cannabis is a category of drugs derived from various species of hemp plants (i.e., *Cannabis indica* and *Cannabis sativa*). There are four principal forms of cannabis, marijuana, hashish, hash oil, and marinol. The tough fiber of the hemp plant stem was once used primarily to produce rope and sail cloth for ships. The seeds of the plant were used in animal feed, and the oil in the manufacture of paint. Through various cultivation experiments, the hemp plant evolved into “*Cannabis sativa*” which grew outdoors and wild throughout most of the tropic and temperate regions of the world and cultivated since ancient times.

One of the chemical components in this plant is Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which is an active ingredient that causes hallucinogenic effects. The THC resin is found abundantly in the upper leaves and flowers of the plant. The leaves contain THC resin that has been used as a drug for centuries. Cannabis indica is a strain of cannabis that

is generally grown indoors and has a higher THC content than the Cannabis sativa strains. There are also new “hybrid strains” that have been developed and have similar effect characteristics of either sativa or indica cannabis. Cannabis was originally very low in THC content, averaging only 3% to 7% in the 1970s and 1980s. Contemporary strains of cannabis can contain between 18% to 35% THC.

In its unprocessed form, cannabis is the dried leaf and flower buds of the cannabis plant. Generally, the leaves are used for the THC extraction processes to make concentrated cannabis with THC contents of 60% to as high as 99%. The concentrated THC is then used primarily to produce edible products, as well as smoked or mixed with other ingredients and placed into vape pens. The flowers are generally sold for general use and commonly smoked or vaporized.

The most potent strain of the cannabis plant is *sinsemilla* (“without seed” in Spanish) that was developed in parts of California and Mexico and is now grown nearly worldwide. This is a female cannabis plant and it produces THC to attract and hold pollen from the male plant. Once the female plant is fertilized by the pollen, it ceases producing THC and will begin producing seeds. Cannabis was not widely used in the United States until the beginning of the 20th century.

Proposition 64 – Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA)

Proposition 64 changed state law to legalize the use of cannabis for non-medical recreational purposes by adults ages 21 and over. Under the AUMA, adults 21 and over and under certain conditions can lawfully do the following:

- Smoke or ingest cannabis or cannabis products.
- Possess, process, transport, purchase, or give away, to other persons 21 years of age or older.
 - Possess up to 28.5 grams (about one ounce) of cannabis.
 - Possess up to 8 grams of concentrated cannabis.
- Possess, plant, harvest, and cultivate up to 6 cannabis plants, and the yield produced from those plants.

While passage of Proposition 64 reduced the penalty for various cannabis offenses to an infraction, misdemeanor, and in some cases “no crime,” violation of 11358(c) HSC (Cultivation), 11359(b) HSC (Possession for Sale), and 11360(a) HSC (Sale/Transportation for Sale), are still felonies under certain circumstances. Those instances are listed in HSC 11358(d)(1) to (d)(3), HSC 11359(c)(1) to (c)(3), or HSC 11360(a)(3)(A) to (a)(3)(D). Some sections require two prior misdemeanor convictions, other sections if committed by a defendant with prior serious and/or violent felony conviction(s) as listed in Penal Code 667(e)(2)(c), or a person who has a Penal Code 290 conviction that is a felony and requires no prior misdemeanor convictions.

The following activities still remain unlawful under Proposition 64:

- Possess cannabis in any amount if the person is under 21 years of age.
- Possess an open container in any amount while in the passenger compartment of a vehicle.
- Smoke or ingest cannabis in public or while driving or riding in a vehicle.
- Driving while under the influence of cannabis.
- Possess more than six cannabis plants.

The transportation of cannabis must be in a closed container, sealed or unsealed, full or partially empty, that is locked in the trunk area of a vehicle, like alcohol. The only exception is for individuals who have a physician's recommendation for medicinal cannabis and/or a State of California-issued health card. Under these circumstances, sealed, resealed or closed containers can be in the driver's compartment, but there can be no loose bud flowers.

The legalization of cannabis and expanded use of illicit drugs has increased the number of community members operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs.

Note: Driving while under the influence (DUI) of drugs continues to be a misdemeanor in violation of 23152(f) of the California Vehicle Code (CVC). If officers conduct a DUI investigation and believe that an operator is impaired by cannabis or any substance other than alcohol, they should follow current Department guidelines when requesting a Department Drug Recognition Expert (DRE).

The Compassionate Use Act does not specifically prohibit individuals with a physician's recommendation from smoking or ingesting in public, however under Proposition 64, ingestion and consumption in public is an infraction regardless of whether the use is for recreational or medicinal purposes.

Street sales, illegal cultivation operations, and transportation over the legally allowed limits are a misdemeanor, but in some cases, it may still rise to the level of a felony if aggravated circumstances are present, theft of utilities has occurred, sales to or use of juveniles to sell, or if the location meets the criteria for 11366 H&S, Opening or Maintaining a Drug House. The export of cannabis to other states remains illegal since the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) considers it a Schedule 1 drug.

Los Angeles City Measure M

Measure M gave the Los Angeles City Council the full authority to regulate commercial cannabis-related activity within the City of Los Angeles. With that authority, the Department of Cannabis Regulation (DCR) was established by ordinance on July 30, 2017. The DCR is responsible for administering the commercial cannabis licensing and regulatory program established by the Los Angeles City Council. Specifically, DCR processes all applications for commercial cannabis licenses in the City of Los Angeles, makes licensing decisions or licensing recommendations to the Cannabis Regulation

Commission, and regulates the operations of licensed commercial cannabis businesses in the City for commercialized sales, testing, cultivating, and manufacturing of cannabis. Recent changes in laws have also allowed a licensed delivery person or caregiver to transport cannabis from a retail location to a person who is lawfully able to possess cannabis.

DCR only handles licensing complaints regarding cannabis businesses operating outside of the rules and regulations set forth in the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC). The DCR does not handle criminal complaints. Although the DCR has the primary responsibility for compliance and inspections of cannabis businesses, personnel from the Los Angeles Police Department may conduct criminal investigations involving those approved locations as needed.

PROCEDURES

Identification of Cannabis

Cannabis is the somewhat dry, shredded, or whole, green/brown flowers, leaves, stems, and seeds from the Cannabis indica or Cannabis sativa plant. It has a pungent odor that is easily identifiable. Each leaf has an odd number of leaflets (from 5-13). The leaflets are long and slender, pointed at both ends, and have serrated (or saw-toothed) edges. The flowers are slightly rounded “nuggets or nugs” that



are very sticky and sometimes have visible droplets of THC resin on the bud clusters. Burning cannabis flowers and leaves have a very distinctive sweet, skunk-like odor. There are other cannabis products, such as THC cartridges for vaporizer (vape) pens. Cannabis can also be present in food and drink items, referred to as “cannabis edibles,” that are infused with concentrated THC.

Common Methods of Packaging

Cannabis is sometimes smuggled into the country in compressed bricks. They resemble a brick or flat block tightly wrapped in plastic and tape. Most of the cannabis sold in Los Angeles is grown in California. Estimates indicate that in 2016 there were 13.5 million pounds of cannabis cultivated, but only 2.5 million pounds was consumed in California and the rest was shipped out of state. On the street, it is commonly seen contained in a colored plastic medicine bottle or clear zip-lock plastic bag.

Methods of Use

There are multiple methods of ingesting cannabis (i.e., smoked, orally, transdermal, or absorption). Cannabis is usually smoked; either ground into a near powder form and wrapped in cigarette papers or “Zig Zag” papers to form a “joint,” or in hollowed-out cigars called “blunts.” Users also use pipes or special water jars, called “bongs,” to smoke cannabis.

Another method uses special vaporizers that slowly burn the dried cannabis flowers and fill a plastic bag with the moistened, filtered smoke that the user inhales from the bag. More recently, THC-infused liquid can be inserted into a “vape pen” for portability and there is no cannabis odor. Cannabis can also be made into edible products containing refined THC concentrate. This THC concentrate is liquefied into a thick wax or oil and combined with butter or cooking oils and used in traditional food or drink recipes.

Signs and Symptoms of Cannabis Use

The odor and/or presence of paraphernalia, in conjunction with bloodshot eyes, lack of convergence, possible dilated pupils, elevated pulse rate, and elevated blood pressure are all indicative of cannabis use. Intoxication via a low dose may appear much like that of alcohol consumption.

Higher doses can produce a relaxed euphoria, hallucinations, and heightened sensations similar to a mild Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) experience. Most users find that sativa strains cause them to be more awake and even somewhat agitated, whereas indica strains will generally produce more drowsiness, numbness, and sleep. Cannabis affects a person's ability to focus on two or more tasks, verbal instructions, and impairs short-term memory. Time and space perception may be distorted, inhibitions are lessened, and there may be disorientation.

The immediate effect lasts two to four hours however, the THC is changed by the body into a secondary compound that is fat-soluble and remains in the body fat for five to eight days.

Cannabis Signs and Symptoms Chart	
Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN)	Not Present
Vertical Gaze Nystagmus (VGN)	Not Present
Lack of Convergence (LOC)	Present
Pupils	Dilated or Near Normal
Pulse Rate	Elevated
Blood Pressure	Elevated
Body Temperature	Normal
Muscle Tone	Normal
General Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disorientation • Body tremors • Eyelid tremors • Debris in mouth • Increased appetite • Impaired perception of time and distance
Other Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow tongue • Cannabis odor • Reddened eyes • Poor perception • Muscular tremors • Increased appetite
Overdose Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paranoia • Psychosis • Hallucinations

Cannabis can be detected in the blood for only a few hours and in urine for up to four weeks. The pupils can be of normal size or dilated (or enlarged) and may display rebound dilation upon application of direct light in a darkroom examination of the eyes. The white portion of the eyes may appear bloodshot and reddened. An increased pulse rate is very common (over 90 beats per minute).

There is a greater risk of toxicity for people ingesting edible cannabis products as the effects sometimes take two to three hours to be felt. This delay causes new users to ingest more since they feel no immediate effects. With the use of electronic cigarettes and other vaporizing devices, "dabs" of butane honey oil (BHO) can be vaporized and inhaled without the smoke and pungent odor of weed, an act called "dabbing." One or two drops, or "dabs," of BHO are as potent as smoking one cannabis joint. Being a highly concentrated form of cannabis, the effects upon the user may be more psychologically and physically intense than plant cannabis use.

INVESTIGATIONS

Disposition of Cannabis in Possession of an Arrestee

Before the passage of AUMA, cannabis was classified as contraband and all cannabis taken into police custody was booked as evidence. However, the AUMA expressly prohibits any seizure of legally possessed cannabis under California State law. Possession of cannabis over 28.5 grams (one ounce) or more than 8 grams concentrated remains a violation of California State law and will be booked as evidence in accordance with all current procedures.

If a person taken into custody and booked into a detention facility is in possession of a **legal amount** of cannabis, the preferred method of disposition of that cannabis is to:

- Leave the cannabis secured at their residence or locked in the trunk or other secure area of their vehicle; or,
- Give it to a third-party who is at least 21 years of age.

If those options are not feasible, the legal amount of cannabis will be treated as follows:

- Weigh the cannabis to confirm it to be no more than 28.5 gross grams (one ounce) in weight. Place the cannabis in an envelope affixing a Non-Evidence Tag, Form 10.12.01, to the outside. Identify contents by weight and as 'AUMA-Marijuana.'
- Complete a Receipt for Property Taken into Custody, Form 10.10.00, and provide it to the arrestee.
- Complete a Property Disposition/Update Request, Form 10.06.00, indicating "Release" in the Property Disposition Instructions and listing the name of any additional person(s) the arrestee will allow to retrieve his/her cannabis.
- Complete a Property Report, Form 10.01.00. Within the narrative identify the item by weight and AUMA-Marijuana, and include the instruction '**DO NOT**

TEST. Additionally, include that a Property Disposition/Update Request has been completed and that the item is available for immediate release.

- Attach copies of the Property Report and the Property Disposition/Update Request to the envelope at the time of its booking.

Exception: Food items containing cannabis will be discarded consistent with current procedures for discarding food items.

At the time of booking the arrestee shall be advised of the following:

- The cannabis is not being seized or being booked as evidence and will be kept as excess property for no longer than 60 days.
- The cannabis can be retrieved by the arrestee at the time of their release or can be retrieved by a person designated by the arrestee, in accordance with established property release days and times.

Any questions concerning booking and/or release of property should be directed to the watch commander, Custody Services Division (CSD).

Investigating Indoor Cannabis Grows

Indoor cannabis growing operations have become increasingly popular because the controlled growing conditions will dramatically increase the THC content of the cannabis. More potent cannabis sells for substantially higher prices. Officers encountering indoor cannabis grows should use caution as traffickers may be armed, and the cultivation location may be guarded by dogs or booby-trapped with explosives. Just because a cannabis grow is discovered does not mean it is inherently illegal. Officers and detectives without expertise in cannabis should contact the Narcotics Enforcement Detail (NED) unit in their Area or the Gang and Narcotics Division. Gang and Narcotics Division (GND) will be able to determine if the growing operation is permitted under Proposition 64 and Measure M (Los Angeles City Ordinance regulating Commercial Cannabis Businesses).

There are no crime scene exemptions for indoor cannabis growing operations; therefore, a search warrant should be obtained for the premises, even if the property owner or resident gives permission to search. Additionally, indoor cultivation utilizes high-pressure, high-voltage electric lamps and hydroponic watering systems, usually in a makeshift manner while bypassing the electrical meter. While alterations and tampering with the electrical system may not be easily detected, it can pose a great hazard to investigators. Officers should defer to an electrician of the Department of Water and Power to ensure that all electrical power is disconnected prior to entering the grow area.

Officers should be aware that hazardous air conditions from molds, insecticides, and pesticides exist at indoor grows and could cause health issues. A **mask** or **breathing device** should be utilized, particularly if the officer is to remain inside the location for an extended period of time. Most indoor grows use carbon dioxide (CO₂) injection

systems to flood the environment with CO₂ that produces greater plant growth. It can cause dizziness and even eventual loss of consciousness over time when not properly ventilated.

Officers should contact their Area NED or GND for advice if they encounter an indoor cannabis grow. During off-hours for the NED, officers should gather as much information as possible (i.e., location, responsible parties, the approximate number of plants/sizes of grow, etc.) and forward it to NED to assist with their investigation.

Investigating Outdoor Cannabis Grows

Currently, under Measure M, the City does not allow for commercial outdoor cultivation, only the six plants or less cultivation authorized by the AUMA in Proposition 64 is permitted. There are several types of insecticides and pesticides commonly found in use at outdoor grows that can pose a serious health hazard to investigators.

As with indoor grows, officers should contact their Area NED or GND for advice if they encounter an outdoor cannabis grow. During off-hours for the NED, officers should gather as much information as possible (i.e., location, responsible parties, the approximate number of plants/sizes of grow, etc.) and forward it to NED to assist with their investigation.

ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement for Unlawful Cannabis Related Activities

Officers should utilize LAMC 104.15 while enforcing unlicensed commercial cannabis activity when a felony section cannot be applied.

(a) Prohibitions on Unlicensed Commercial Cannabis Activity and Certain Medical Cannabis Collectives:

- It is unlawful for a Person to establish, operate, or participate as an Employee, contractor, agent, or volunteer, in any unlicensed Commercial Cannabis Activity in the City.
- It is unlawful for a Person to establish, operate or participate in a medical marijuana collective or cooperative unless in a dwelling unit with three or fewer qualified patients, persons with identification cards or primary caregivers, or any combination thereof.
- The prohibitions in Subsections (a)1. and (a)2., include renting, leasing to or otherwise allowing any unlicensed Commercial Cannabis Activity or a medical marijuana collective or cooperative to occupy or use any building or land.

(b) Starting on January 1, 2018, it is unlawful to:

- Own or operate an Unlawful Establishment;
- Participate as an Employee, contractor, agent, or volunteer or in any other capacity in an Unlawful Establishment;
- Use any portion of any parcel of land as an Unlawful Establishment; or
- Lease, rent to, or otherwise allow an Unlawful Establishment to occupy any portion of parcel of land.

Cannabis Concentrates

Cannabis concentrates are made from the essential oil of the cannabis plant. The oil is extracted using butane or other solvents and then “cooked” to remove any solvent, leaving a final product that resembles a honey-like or caramel-like substance. Referred to by a variety of names, such as “honey oil,” “BHO,” “dab,” “wax,” or “budder,” the substance is prized for its concentration of THC, the primary intoxicant in cannabis. Use of solvents such as butane to wash the THC off cannabis leaves and flowers is still a felony in some cases under Proposition 64. There will be a limited number of State licenses issued to manufacturers due to the extremely flammable chemicals used to extract the THC from the cannabis. These labs pose an immediate and significant threat to the public and the safety of officers. If officers find themselves in a suspected drug lab, they should exit the location, leaving the door open for ventilation, and take the following precautions:

- Do not touch anything in the lab.
- Do not turn on/off any electrical power switches or light switches.
- Do not turn on/off any flashlight(s).
- Do not sniff any containers.
- Do not smoke near a lab.
- Do not open/move containers with chemicals or suspected chemicals.
- Do not eat or drink in and around a lab.

Drug Free Workplace

Although California voters passed Proposition 64, the Los Angeles Police Department (Department) Policy regulating a drug free Department remains in effect for all personnel.

The City of Los Angeles and Department policies require that our employees and workplace remain drug free. As such, our policy is unaffected by Proposition 64 and the use of cannabis products is prohibited for any reason in both on-duty and off-duty environments. The use of illegal controlled substances, including cannabis products by a Department employee, sworn or civilian, may result in discipline, up to and including termination.

This Training Bulletin cancels and supersedes Volume XXXI, Issue 17, Marijuana, October 1999.

Field Training Services Unit
Police Training and Education

DISTRIBUTION "A"

Attachments: Cannabis Laws, Cannabis Laws & Driving , and Suspected Fentanyl Handling Protocol

Legal Background

Disclaimer: This information is provided for background purposes only, as legislation regarding cannabis and cannabis projects is subject to change.

Current Department guidelines have been shaped by recently enacted legislation, including but not limited to the passage of Proposition 64, the Adult Use of Marijuana Act, or AUMA (2016), subsequent changes to AUMA made by Los Angeles City Measure M (2017) and Senate Bill 94 (2017). These actions changed Health and Safety Codes (HSC) concerning medical cannabis, which was created under Proposition 215 (1996) and Senate Bill 420 (2003). It also provided new Business and Professions Codes (BPC), HSC sections, and City ordinances that govern the commercial cultivation, distribution, and sales of medical and recreational cannabis. Proposition 64 also initiated AUMA, which decriminalized most cannabis activities for people 21 years of age and older. Proposition 64 and Measure M became fully effective on January 1, 2018; however, the City will have provisions to permit some parts of Proposition M and all of the AUMA to take effect immediately.

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cannabis Laws

Activity	Under 18	18 - 20	21 & Over
Smoking/Ingesting in a public place	Infraction 11362.3(a)(1) HSC	Infraction 11362.3(a)(1) HSC	Infraction 11362.3(a)(1) HSC
Smoking within 1000 feet of a school, day care center, or youth center when children are present	Infraction 11362.3(a)(3) HSC	Infraction 11362.3(a)(3) HSC	Infraction 11362.3(a)(3) HSC
Possess/Smoke/Ingest cannabis or cannabis products on grounds of school, day care center, or youth center when children are present	Infraction 11362.3(a)(5) HSC	Misdemeanor 11362.3(a)(5) HSC	Misdemeanor 11362.3(a)(5) HSC
Possession on the person, of an "open container", unless exemption applies (Refer to section 23222(b)(1) CVC for Exemption)	Infraction 23222(b) CVC	Infraction 23222(b)CVC	Infraction 23222(b) CVC
Possession of concentrated cannabis 4 grams or less (8 grams or less 21 and older)	Infraction 11357(a)(1) HSC	Infraction 11357(a)(2) HSC	LEGAL
Possession of concentrated cannabis more than 4 grams	Infraction 11357(b)(1) HSC	Infraction 11357(b)(2) HSC	LEGAL up to 8 grams
Possession of 28.5 grams or less of cannabis or 4 grams or less of concentrated cannabis on K-12 school grounds during school hours	Infraction 11357(d) HSC	Misdemeanor 11357(c) HSC	Misdemeanor 11357(c) HSC
Possession of concentrated cannabis more than 8 grams	Infraction 11357(b)(1) HSC	Infraction 11357(b)(1) HSC	Misdemeanor 11357(b)(2) HSC
Possession of 28.5 grams or less of cannabis	Infraction 11357(a)(1) HSC	Infraction 11357(a)(2) HSC	LEGAL
Possession or more than 28.5 grams of cannabis	Infraction 11357(b)(1) HSC	Infraction 11357(b)(2) HSC	Misdemeanor 11357(b)(2) HSC
Cultivation of 6 plants or less and possession of the cannabis produced by the plants	Infraction 11358(a) HSC	Infraction 11358(b) HSC	LEGAL If in compliance with restrictions

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cannabis Laws

Activity	Under 18	18 - 20	21 & Over
Cultivation of more than 6 plants	Infraction 11358(a) HSC	Misdemeanor 11358(c) HSC Wobbler	Misdemeanor 11358(c) HSC Wobbler
Possession for sales	Infraction 11359(a) HSC	Misdemeanor 11359(b) HSC Wobbler	Misdemeanor 11359(b) HSC Wobbler
Sales/Transportation for sale/Give away 28.5 grams or less of cannabis other than concentrated cannabis	Infraction 11360(a)(1) HSC	Misdemeanor 11360(a)(2) HSC Wobbler	Misdemeanor 11360(a)(2) HSC Wobbler
Manufacture of concentrated cannabis using a volatile solvent, unless pursuant to state license	Felony 11379.6(a) HSC	Felony 11379.6(a) HSC	Felony 11379.6(a) HSC

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cannabis Laws & Driving

CRIME	AGE OF SUSPECT	QUANTITY	CLASSIFICATION	VIOLATION SECTION
Possession in Vehicle	Any Age	Any Amount	Infraction	23222 (b) CVC (1)*EXCEPTION*
Open Container / Package While Driving / Operating / Riding in Vehicle	Any Age	Any Amount	Infraction	11362.3 (a) (4) H&S
Driver – Smoke / Ingest While Driving / Operating Vehicle	Any Age	Any Amount	Infraction	11362.3 (a) (7) H&S or 23221 (a) CVC
Passenger – Smoke / Ingest While Riding Passenger Seat / Compartment of Vehicle	Any Age	Any Amount	Infraction	11362.3 (a) (8) H&S or 23221 (b) CVC
DUI Drugs	Any Age		Misdemeanor	23152 (f) CVC **23153 (f) - Felony Section**
DUI Drugs & Alcohol	Any Age		Misdemeanor	23152 (f) CVC **23153 (g) – Felony Section**
DUI Bike	Any Age		Misdemeanor	21200.5 (a) CVC
DUI Electronically Motorized Board	Any Age		Infraction	21296 (a) CVC
DUI Scooter	Any Age		Infraction	21221.5 CVC

(1) – APPLIES ONLY TO DRIVER AND IN PASSENGER COMPARTMENT.
DOES NOT APPLY QUALIFIED PATIENT (MEDICAL USE) W / ID CARD IF BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

1. THE PERSON IS CARRYING CURRENTLY ID CARD OR PHYSICIAN'S REC.
2. CANNABIS OR CANNABIS PRODUCT'S CONTAINERS IS SEALED, RESEALED OR CLOSED.

LAPD DRE Unit – 1880 N. Academy Rd, Los Angeles CA 90012

323-276-2380

Updated 11-01-2018

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

Suspected Fentanyl Handling Protocol

Fentanyl and its analogues can present a significant hazard to Department personnel, particularly if inhaled. Personnel are most susceptible to inhalation when the drug particles are airborne. This is most likely to occur during the opening of containers or packages containing a fentanyl-based product, manipulating a fentanyl-based substance, or brushing/dusting fentanyl-based powders off clothing, gloves, or other surfaces. Due to this inhalation hazard, the NARK II screening tests on all suspected controlled substances has been discontinued. Officers encountering suspected fentanyl, or its analogues, shall adhere to the following guidelines:

- If the material is sealed or contained, officers shall follow existing protocols for booking evidence into Property Division without performing the preliminary NARK II testing.
 - Officers shall don the recommended personal protective equipment as follows:
 - Nitrile or latex gloves
 - Dusk mask: (N95 rated or above)
 - Eye protection
 - When possible, wear long sleeves
 - Avoid actions that may cause the material to become airborne. Officers shall not open a sealed container suspected to be fentanyl.
 - Describe the substance on the Property or Combined Evidence Report. Collect and package without agitating the substance or producing airborne particles. Write the words "Suspected Fentanyl" on the outside of the sealed plastic bag, and on the Analyzed Evidence envelope.
 - Determine the gross weight of the sample (including packaging) and include the information on the Property Report, Form 10.01.00 or Combined Evidence Report, Form 5.02.00.
 - Once the materials are collected and packaged, they should be secured in the trunk or rear cargo area of the officer's vehicle prior to transportation.
 - After the evidence has been booked, contact Forensic Sciences Division as soon as possible and request laboratory analysis.
 - Following completion of the evidence booking process, officers should wash hands with soap and copious amounts of water only. Alcohol-based wipes or hand sanitizers shall not be used.
- If any of the following occur, the involved personnel shall contact the Department Operations Center, at (213) 484-6700, and notify both the Gang and Narcotics Division Clandestine Lab Squad as well as the Hazardous Materials Unit for guidance:
 - If the material has breached its container and needs to be collected for evidence, the involved officers shall immediately exit and secure the location.

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

Suspected Fentanyl Handling Protocol

- If the scene involves large quantities of suspected fentanyl (e.g., distribution/storage facility, pill milling operation, clandestine lab, gross contamination, spill or release) or an overdose resulting in a death.

Note: If a Department employee or any other person believes they have been contaminated, officers shall monitor the exposed individual(s) for signs/symptoms of opioid intoxication and request a rescue ambulance or ensure other appropriate medical treatment is immediately provided. If a Department employee is trained, equipped, and authorized to administer Naloxone or NARCAN, it can be administered (if needed).

- Contaminated employees should not enter non-contaminated vehicles.
- If a Department vehicle is believed to be contaminated with fentanyl or one of its analogues, officers shall immediately remove the vehicle from service.
- If officers encounter suspected fentanyl combined with a threat, or other terrorism nexus.

Involved officers shall immediately notify a Department supervisor of any adverse incident involving fentanyl or its analogues (spilled material, contamination, inadvertent inhalation, or other means of accidental absorption, etc.).