Suspicious Overdose Deaths

On Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at approximately 9:30 a.m., Monterey Police Officers and Detectives responded to a suspected overdose death on the Monterey Peninsula College Campus.

On Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at approximately 10:30 p.m., Monterey Police Officers responded to a second suspected overdose death in the 700 block of Lottie Street.

Monterey Detectives are in contact with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and are investigating these cases.

The Monterey Police Department works closely with Central Coast Overdose Prevention (CCODP). The CCODP is a coalition of care providers, community nonprofits, and community members that devote their efforts toward the prevention of opiate overdoses.

Naloxone is an opiate antagonist that works to reverse the effects of opiate overdoses.

The City of Monterey, via the Monterey Police Department Multi-Disciplinary Outreach Team (MDOT), in collaboration with the CCODP, works to combat addictions and overdoses. As part of this effort, installing Naloxone Nasal Spray Now Boxes at crucial locations within the city of Monterey provides free access to lifesaving opiate overdose reversal medicine.

Naloxone boxes are located at three different locations within the City of Monterey.

- Monterey Transit Plaza
- Monterey Police Department at 351 Madison Street
- Monterey Outreach and Navigation Center at 401 Camino El Estero

Overdose deaths are on the rise. The State of California experienced 11,002 overdose deaths in all of 2022. There were 10,985 deaths in the second quarter
alone in 2023. Monterey County experienced 109 deaths in the second quarter of 2023. Due to variances in county reporting, the totals for 2023 have not yet been calculated.

From January 1, 2024 to May 1, 2024, Monterey County has experienced 283 reported overdoses. Most of these have been non-fatal, highlighting the importance of immediate first aid with tools such as Naloxone.

Addiction can tear families apart. It does not discriminate; it can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, or background. Recognizing the signs of addiction is the first step. Changes in behavior, mood swings, secrecy, and neglecting responsibilities are all red flags.

The drugs circulating in our streets are more potent and dangerous than ever before. Fentanyl, in particular, has been found mixed with various substances, posing a lethal threat even in small doses.

The Monterey Police Department, along with our community partners are committed to addressing this issue, but we cannot solve this problem alone. We need your help. If you suspect drug activity in your neighborhood or if you know someone struggling with addiction, please do not hesitate to contact the MPD or the CCODP.

As a reminder, California’s Good Samaritan Law provides legal protections for individuals who call for emergency assistance. This includes protection from arrest and/or prosecution for crimes related to drug possession and drug paraphernalia possession.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents is encouraged to contact Detective Sergeant Greg Galin (831) 646-3872, or to remain anonymous call (831) 646-3840.

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