



NALOXONE SAFETY AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

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AND
HEATH KRUGER**



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Goal:

- Enhancing Park Ranger Safety, Visitor Assistance, & Responder Preparedness
 - Understanding the threats faced by USACE Park Rangers
 - Administration of Naloxone
 - Policy and legal considerations
-
- **Disclaimer:** This presentation provides general information about Naloxone administration for USACE Park Rangers. It is not a substitute for professional medical training. Always follow the instructions provided with your specific Naloxone device and consult with a healthcare professional for any questions or concerns.



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Response to a Growing Threat



- Increasing prevalence of fentanyl and other opioids presents a risk to Park Rangers and visitors with potential impacts on agency readiness.
- Narcan (naloxone) is a life-saving medication that can reverse opioid overdoses. Rapid administration is critical. USACE Park Rangers may be first on scene for overdose events.
- This briefing outlines best practices for naloxone administration by USACE Park Rangers, safety considerations, and post-administration procedures.



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What is Narcan? - Mechanism of Action

- Narcan is the brand name for naloxone hydrochloride.
- It's an opioid antagonist – meaning it binds to opioid receptors and blocks the effects of opioids (e.g., heroin, fentanyl, prescription pain medications).
- It reverses the life-threatening effects of an overdose, including slowed/stopped breathing.
- Important: naloxone only works on opioid overdoses. Will not be effective for someone who has overdosed on other substances.



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Recognizing an Opioid Overdose - Signs & Symptoms

Key Signs:

- Slow or stopped breathing
- Pinpoint pupils
- Unresponsive to verbal or physical stimuli (cannot be awakened)
- Blue lips or fingertips (cyanosis)
- Choking or gurgling sounds



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Naloxone Administration - Step-by-Step Guide (Nasal Spray)

- 1. Prioritize your own safety, ensure the scene is safe.**
- 2. Attempt to position the victim on their back, if possible, without compromising your safety. Peel back the package to open the Naloxone Nasal Spray.**
- 3. Gently insert the tip of the nozzle into one nostril until your fingers on the bottom of the device touch the nostril.**
- 4. Firmly press the plunger to release the dose.**
- 5. Observe for a response. If no response within 2-3 minutes, administer a second dose in the other nostril.**



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What Happens After Administration?

- Call 911 immediately. The effects of naloxone are temporary, and the individual may relapse into an overdose.
- Monitor the victim's breathing and responsiveness until emergency medical services arrive.
- Be prepared to administer other first aid measures if the victim stops breathing or condition does not improve.
- The individual may experience withdrawal symptoms after naloxone administration (e.g., nausea, vomiting, muscle aches). Reassure them and explain what is happening.
- Naloxone does not require a prescription and is available through various channels (pharmacies, public health departments, military health facilities).



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Ranger Safety First!

- Scene Assessment: Always prioritize your safety. Assess the environment for potential hazards (e.g., other individuals, weapons, biohazards).
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Wear gloves, eye protection, and a mask to minimize exposure to bodily fluids and potential drug paraphernalia.
- Buddy System: When possible, respond to potential overdose situations with a partner.
- Decontamination Procedures: Follow established protocols for decontaminating equipment and clothing after potential exposure.



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Safety Precautions & Legal Considerations



- **Good Samaritan Laws:** Many states have Good Samaritan laws that protect individuals who administer naloxone in good faith during an overdose. (Confirm specific regulations for your location).
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Use gloves and a barrier device (e.g., mask) when administering naloxone to minimize exposure to bodily fluids.
- **Proper Disposal:** Dispose of used naloxone devices according to local regulations.
- **Training is Essential:** Complete a certified naloxone administration training program to ensure competency. (Military installations may offer training opportunities).



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Legal Considerations & Reporting - Understanding Your Responsibilities

- USACE Policy: Adhere to all USACE policies regarding medical emergencies and reporting procedures.
- Incident Reporting: Complete a detailed incident report documenting the overdose, naloxone administration, and any other relevant information.
- Chain of Custody: If any suspected drug evidence is encountered, follow proper chain of custody procedures with local law enforcement.



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Where to Find More Information?

- **Local EMS Agencies:** Partner with local EMS agencies for joint training exercises
- **SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration):** <https://www.samhsa.gov/>
- **National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA):** <https://www.drugabuse.gov/>
- **Your Military Treatment Facility (MTF):** Contact your local MTF for training and access to Narcan.
- **Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP):** Provides resources and support for service members and families.
- **Regular Refresher Training:** Participate in regular refresher training to maintain proficiency in Narcan administration and emergency medical procedures



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Resources

- NRM Gateway Park Ranger Advisory Board
- <https://corpslakes.erdcdren.mil/rangers/info.cfm?Option=GETS>

Email: heath.r.kruger@usace.army.mil



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USACE Naloxone Nasal Spray Guide

Also referred to as "Narcan"

Intended for field use in support of the Headquarters Naloxone Memorandum

1. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use, storage, and expiration.
2. Adhere to your training.
 - a. The American Heart Association and most equivalent vendors provide Naloxone / overdose training under their basic first aid curriculum. Ask your vendor if unsure.
 - b. American Heart Association training link: <https://cpr.heart.org/en/cpr-courses-and-kits/heart-saver/heart-saver-first-aid-cpr-aed-training>
 - c. Red Cross training link: https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/training-services/b2b/ARC_WorkPlace_FA-CPR_AED-Brochure-8pg-v2_DIGITAL-spread-CTA-static.pdf
4. Be prepared to provide additional aid afterwards, when safe to do so.
 - a. Readminister in each nostril every 2-3 minutes if needed.
 - b. Reassess patient.
5. The purchase justification for Naloxone is the same as other first aid equipment.
6. Approved vendors are available.
 - a. <https://www.narcandirect.com/> Create a tax-exempt account, the 889 is available on Sam.gov.
 - b. <https://directsales.padaqisnaloxone.com/login?referer=/> Create an account, the 889 is available on Sam.gov.
 - c. <https://endoverdose.net/> Offers free Naloxone (With limitations).
 - d. <https://www.cintas.com/firstaidsafety/firstaidsupplies/> Offers refill services which include Naloxone refills. Check your account, Cintas is 889 compliant.
7. Exposure to Fentanyl.
 - a. In the event of transient skin exposure to fentanyl, no meaningful absorption is anticipated. Simply wash the affected area with soap and water.

▲ STEPS TO ADMINISTERING NALOXONE NASAL SPRAY

PEEL



Peel back the package to remove device. Hold the device with your thumb on the bottom of the plunger and 2 fingers on either side of the nozzle.

PLACE



Place and hold the tip of the nozzle in either nostril until your fingers touch the bottom of the patient's nose.

PRESS



Press the plunger firmly to release the dose into the patient's nose.

For more information, contact your HQ Park Ranger CoP Advisory Board