



# (U//LES) Joint Highlight #19-08: Changing Fentanyl Appearance is an Officer Safety Concern

Date: May 06, 2019 Tracked by: HSEC-5, VFC/NVRIC SIN 5

## (U) Key Points

- (U//LES) Fentanyl and fentanyl analogs are frequently seized throughout Virginia. This trend presents safety concerns to first responders due to its changing appearance and the potential for accidental exposure through inhalation, oral ingestion or contact with skin.
- (U//LES) The appearance of fentanyl is being altered from a simple white powder into pills, capsules, colored powder, and disguised as marijuana.
- (U//LES) Fentanyl and its analogs are being combined with other illicit narcotics such as cocaine and methamphetamine.
- (U//LES) Law enforcement and first responders are unknowingly being exposed to fentanyl because its appearance is altered, sold as a different narcotic, or mixed with other narcotics.

## (U//LES) Fentanyl Forms

- (U//LES) On January 31, 2019, Frederick Police Department in Maryland encountered a pink powder in a clear gel cap which tested positive for fentanyl. The origin for the capsules is reportedly Baltimore City, Maryland.
- (U//LES) On February 7, 2019, the Calgary Police Service in Canada seized fentanyl masked as cannabis. Lab tests revealed no cannabis was present in the seized product.
- (U//LES) In March 2019, Virginia State Police Special Agents assigned to a FBI Safe-Streets Task Force seized fentanyl in the form of black and yellow capsules in Fredericksburg. The origin for the capsules is believed to be Baltimore, Maryland.
- (U//LES) In April 2018, Prince William County Police Department seized green M-80 fentanyl pills linked to a non-fatal overdose.

## (U) Fentanyl Exposure Incidents in Virginia

- (U//FOUO) On March 12, 2019, a Rockingham County Sheriff's Office Deputy was exposed to fentanyl in a white powder form during an interdiction traffic stop.
- (U//FOUO) On April 4, 2019, a Richmond City Officer was exposed to narcotics, possibly fentanyl, while making a drug arrest. The officer recognized he was experiencing narcotics exposure due to breathing difficulties and requested Narcan from a Virginia State Police Trooper.
- (U//FOUO) On April 10, 2019, a Hanover County Sheriff's Office Deputy was exposed to fentanyl while treating a patient experiencing a cardiac episode.



(U//LES) Pink powder fentanyl



(U//LES) Fentanyl in form of cannabis



(U//LES) Fentanyl in form of capsules



(U//LES) M-80 Fentanyl Pills

**(U//LES) Please report suspicious activity to the VFC at [VFC@vsp.virginia.gov](mailto:VFC@vsp.virginia.gov) or NVRIC at [FCPD-NVRIC@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:FCPD-NVRIC@fairfaxcounty.gov).**

*This is LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE information protected by Virginia Code Section 52-48, unless otherwise noted. Further dissemination of this information outside of your organization is prohibited unless written approval is obtained from the NVRIC or VFC prior to dissemination. Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 52-48(D), anyone violating distribution restrictions may be prosecuted and may be prohibited from receiving future reports. Please contact the NVRIC or VFC for more information.*