

# First Responder Occupational Exposure to Opioids

Police officers and firefighters responding to emergency calls may be at risk for occupational exposures to a variety of illegal drugs, including opioids such as fentanyl and heroin. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recently published [two health hazard evaluation \(HHE\)](#) reports highlighting responder failure to wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE) when suspected opioids were visible.

Do your first responders have the right PPE to protect them on emergency calls? Have they had training on their PPE?

NIOSH offers additional guidance and information on the website, [Preventing Emergency Responders' Exposure to Illicit Drugs](#).

For additional information on the SMCX's services, please visit the SMCX-hosted website at: <https://www.smscx.org/>.



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