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Tainted Heroin Flooding Into Eastern States

The Pittsburgh, PA, area reported [over two dozen confirmed deaths due to fentanyl-laced heroin](#) in a 10-day period starting January 16th, with more to be determined. Pennsylvania and New York are both reporting increased overdoses due to this batch of laced heroin, which tests show is a 50-50 mix of fentanyl and heroin.

Fentanyl is a potent painkiller commonly used in treatment for chronic pain. It is added to heroin to increase the high and to cut the heroin, making it cheaper. Smaller amounts of the mixture can produce a stronger high than heroin alone. The Allegheny County (PA) medical examiner stated he believes the fentanyl being used in this batch is not pharmaceutical-grade, suggesting someone is making it.

Multiple overdoses are also confirmed in [Maryland](#), [Michigan](#), [Vermont](#), and [New Hampshire](#). Public health officials and law enforcement are advised to be on the lookout for stamp bags branded with markings of “Bud Ice” and “Theraflu,” although other specific stamp bag names are still [undergoing toxicology testing](#).

In addition, first responders should use proper PPE when dealing with a possible drug scene. Fentanyl is absorbed through the skin, lungs, and mucous membranes. Gloves and face masks are strongly recommended.

(Source: [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#))

CA Power Station Attack Concerns Officials

In April 2013, there was an [attack on a California power facility](#) that is only now making national news thanks to remarks made during a congressional hearing on regulatory issues. The incident did not involve a cyber-attack; instead, fiber communication cables were cut and for 20 minutes one or multiple people shot at transformers using assault rifles.

More than 100 rounds were fired damaging 10 giant transformers in one part of the facility and 3 banks of transformers in another. It took several weeks to repair the damage. The FBI is not calling this terrorism, domestic or otherwise, but [some do not agree](#). Several experts call this a sophisticated and planned attack, and the then chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission called it the “most significant incident of domestic terrorism involving the grid that has ever occurred.”

The InfoGram is distributed weekly to provide members of the Emergency Services Sector with information concerning the protection of their critical infrastructures.

At a time where cybersecurity takes center stage, this incident and the [attack on the electrical facility in Arkansas](#) last year put a spotlight on physical security. Many in the industry believe such facilities are [not being adequately protected from physical threats](#), and Congress is questioning how safe power grid facilities really are.

After word got out about the scope of the attack in California, energy companies across the country have worked to review security measures at their facilities and ensure proper target-hardening measures are being taken. Law enforcement agencies are encouraged to contact energy facilities in their jurisdictions to refresh partnerships and review plans and procedures.

(Source: [DHS](#))

Yellow Dot Program Aiding Accident Response

Every day across the country, emergency personnel respond to car accidents where the victims are left unconscious or unable to communicate with responders.

Valuable medical information about the victim is simply unavailable, and responders are left to do the best they can to stabilize and transport the victim to the nearest medical facility, where they also often must work despite a lack of medical history.

The [Yellow Dot program](#) hopes to fix that problem. Participants of the program place a yellow dot in the rear window of their car, which alerts first responders that a corresponding envelope containing passengers' medical information and a picture is in the glove box. Within seconds, responders can have a list of prescriptions and a medical history of injured passengers, which can then be passed on to the hospital.

A USA Today article states this program is [especially valuable for older Americans](#), particularly those with many medical issues. From a first responder point of view, however, the program is valuable for any victim.

People can request packets from the official program site for a small fee. Many states have their own site where residents can request free packets. Search online for "Yellow Dot" and the name of your state to find your state's information.

(Source: [Yellow Dot Program](#))

New Website for School Emergency Planning

The U.S. Department of Education's [Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools](#) (REMS) has launched a new website for their Technical Assistance Center. The website hosts information on "developing, maintaining, and enhancing high-quality for schools and institutions of higher education (IHEs)."

Also included is the recently released federal guidance on emergency operations plan (EOP) development, [one each for IHEs and K-12](#). Each describes the recommended [six step planning process](#) and key topics supporting EOP development, such as information sharing, school climate, active shooter scenarios, and psychological first aid.

Additional resources available include: National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance, trainings by request, virtual trainings, and a virtual tool box developed by school and IHE emergency managers.

(Source: [REMS](#))

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