



Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

For Immediate Release
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Deputy Recovering After Exposure to Fentanyl

Pueblo, CO: A Pueblo County Sheriff's Patrol Deputy is recovering after she was exposed to fentanyl and briefly went unconscious after taking a suspect into custody early Tuesday morning.

Sheriff's deputies responded at about 4 a.m. to the Loaf N Jug, 1700 Santa Fe, on an unwanted person at the store. Deputies contacted the man, identified as Anthony Gendoes, 31, and learned that he had an active warrant.

Deputies, who were wearing protective gloves, conducted a routine pat search of Gendoes and found suspected fentanyl pills and paraphernalia on him. Gendoes also admitted to deputies that he had just smoked fentanyl prior to having contact with the deputies. Deputies took Gendoes into custody without incident and placed him in a patrol car while they were processing the drugs and paraphernalia.

One of the deputies began feeling ill and subsequently went unconscious and fell to the ground. The second deputy quickly administered a dose of agency-issued Narcan, which is an FDA-approved drug to counteract the effects of opioid overdose. A second dose of Narcan was administered and the deputy regained consciousness. She was transported by ambulance to a local hospital where she was treated and released for the exposure. She is recovering at home.

The names of the deputies involved are not being released at this time due to this being an ongoing investigation.

Pueblo County Sheriff's deputies have been carrying Narcan in their vehicles since 2016. Through the years, deputies have administered Narcan to individuals who have overdosed, however, this was the first time it was used on a deputy.

"This shocking incident demonstrates the dangers our deputies face with exposure to this deadly drug," said Pueblo County Sheriff David J. Lucero. "This is quite scary to know that even just slight exposure can have such devastating effects."

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“I’m so thankful our deputy is recovering and will be back to work soon,” Lucero added. “Our deputies put their lives on the line every day and this is just a reminder of the dangers of this deadly drug. I share this release with this deputy’s full support after speaking with her this morning to shed light on the dangers of this drug.

“I also want to commend our deputy who realized his fellow deputy had probably been exposed to Fentanyl and took quick action to administer the lifesaving Narcan. His actions likely saved her life,” Lucero said. “Fortunately, our deputies carry Narcan in their vehicles and are trained on how to use it.”

After the exposure occurred, the Sheriff’s Office contacted the Colorado State Patrol Hazmat team to test and safely bag the pills and paraphernalia. The State Patrol’s presumptive test was positive for fentanyl.

Gendoes was arrested on the warrant and a new charge of possession of a controlled substance. He has been booked into the Pueblo County Jail.

Lucero is using this incident to remind the public to be mindful of not touching or attempting to move any strange substances they may come across. “This is a very dangerous and deadly drug, and this incident brings to light how even small exposure can lead to devastating outcomes. If you see something suspicious, call law enforcement.”

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