



New York State Correctional Officers
& Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

"Keeping New York Safe"

Officer Overcome by Unknown Substance at Gouverneur Correctional Facility

Possible Fentanyl Exposure Sends Officer to Hospital

For Immediate Release

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Gouverneur, NY – An officer who was searching the cell and property of an inmate was overcome by exposure to possibly Fentanyl at the medium security correction facility on Monday.

The officer, assisted by another officer, was searching the cell at approximately 8:30 a.m. when he began feeling lightheaded and short of breath. The officer was immediately taken to the infirmary. In the infirmary, the officer's condition worsened and he became incoherent. A registered nurse administered two doses of Narcan prior to an ambulance arriving to transport the officer to Gouverneur Hospital for further treatment.

The ventilation systems of the building containing the contaminated cell were shut down to contain the exposure. The fire department responded with the Hazardous Materials Team to assess and clean up the contaminated area. Once the area was cleaned, the ventilation system was turned back on.

After treatment at the hospital, the officer was released from the hospital later in the day and did not return to duty.

The second officer was evaluated and had no symptoms and remained on duty.

Testing of the contaminated area was inconclusive. Further test results to determine the substance are forthcoming.

"Fentanyl is killing people at an alarming rate in this country and it has become a serious threat to law enforcement and first responders who are exposed to it while simply in the course of their daily routine. We have made great strides in making a dent in the amount of illegal drugs that get into the hands of inmates with the installment of the Secure Vendor Program. Still, every effort must be taken to reduce the risk of exposure to deadly drugs like Fentanyl. Staff endures enough right now being assaulted by inmates every day. The last thing they should need to worry about is another threat to their health with situations like this at Gouverneur." – stated Bryan Hluska, Central Region Vice President.