



Major County Sheriffs of America

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Sheriffs Support the Release of Unified Fentanyl Safety Recommendations for First Responders

Today, the White House announced the release of the Fentanyl Safety Recommendations for First Responders. Due to the increased prevalence of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, first responders need to understand the lethal dangers of these illicit substances and how to protect themselves from exposure in the field.

MCSA President Sheriff Sandra Hutchens commented, “The MCSA supports the release of these Recommendations as a critical first step in keeping first responders safe. Sheriffs across the nation have seen an unprecedented rise in drug overdose deaths and each death is tragic and preventable. Officer safety is key as we tackle the opioid epidemic.”

“The opioid epidemic is a threat to national security. Despite positive strides to combat the crisis through education, public-private take back programs, engagement in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program, and outfitting first responders with Narcan, much work remains including the need to increase information sharing,” said Sheriff Mike Bouchard, VP of Government Affairs for the MCSA. “We need to leverage existing information sharing capabilities to respond effectively to this multi-faceted challenge. There should be no information silos when it comes to public safety.”

The Recommendations are the result of a Federal Interagency Working Group coordinated by the White House National Security Council. The MCSA was one of the 24 associations/organizations that provided invaluable input to ensure the Recommendations are operationally relevant, appropriately tailored to first responders, and conveyed in a user-friendly format.

To access the Fentanyl Safety Recommendations for First Responders, visit <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/key-issues/fentanyl>

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The [Major County Sheriffs of America](http://www.mcsheriffs.com) (MCSA) is a professional law enforcement association of elected sheriffs representing counties or

parishes with 500,000 population or more. MCSA is dedicated to preserving the highest integrity in law enforcement, corrections and the elected Office of the Sheriff. MCSA's membership represents over 100 million Americans, and works to promote a greater understanding of strategies to address future problems and identify law enforcement challenges facing members of the organization.