

## CITY OF MISSOULA POLICE DEPARTMENT Public Information Office

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Date:February 20, 2024Contact:Officer Whitney BennettPhone:406-552-6290E-Mail:bennettw@ci.missoula.mt.us

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Missoula Police Department Issues Public Warning on Pink Fentanyl Danger

The Missoula Police Department is issuing a public service announcement following the recent seizure of a dangerous substance, pink fentanyl powder, in connection with multiple overdoses occurring within city limits. These incidents serve as a tragic reminder of the severe risks associated with drug consumption, particularly when it comes to synthetic opioids like pink fentanyl.

Missoula law enforcement responded to multiple overdoses recently, where the substance in question was identified as pink fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid known to be significantly more powerful than traditional opioids. Even small amounts can lead to overdose and death. Both adults and juveniles have been identified as overdose victims, underscoring the urgency for parents and guardians to be aware of the dangers their children may face.

Parents and guardians are urged to have open and honest conversations with their children about the dangers of drug use, specifically emphasizing the risks associated with it. Be aware of any changes in behavior, peer associations, or signs of substance use in your children, and seek professional guidance if needed. Parents and other individuals can go to <u>Fentanyl (dea.gov)</u> (Fentanyl fact sheet) for credible information regarding fentanyl.

The Missoula Police Department is working tirelessly to investigate the source of the pink fentanyl and disrupt the distribution networks responsible for circulating such hazardous substances in our community.

The Missoula Police Department encourages residents to avoid and refrain from using any illegal drugs, as they may contain unknown and potentially lethal substances. If you or someone you know is struggling with substance abuse, reach out to local addiction support services or healthcare professionals for assistance. If you have information related to the distribution of illicit substances, contact the Missoula Police Department at (406) 552-6300 or make an anonymous tip through Crimestoppers at (406) 721-4444.

The safety and well-being of our community, especially our youth, are of paramount importance. The Missoula Police Department remains dedicated to addressing the challenges posed by dangerous substances and will continue working collaboratively with local partners to ensure the safety of all residents.