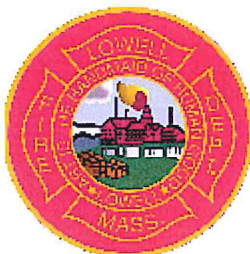


*Fighting Fires, Saving Lives, and Promoting Safety.*

Jeffrey J. Winward  
Fire Chief



**For Immediate Release  
December 4, 2018**

**Public Information Officer:**

Chief Jeffrey Winward  
Lowell Fire Department  
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Lowell's Public Safety agencies have seen a surge in opiate overdoses the area recently. In the Greater Lowell area, there have been 21 overdoses in the last week, and 8 in the last 24 hours. There were 3 suspected fatal overdoses over this past weekend. There appears to be a lethal, very strong batch of opiates in the area. We strongly urge people **not** to use opiates, but if you or your loved one is suffering from addiction, please be extra vigilant in the coming days. Do not use alone, and check on your loved ones frequently if they may be using opiates. Deadly fentanyl is being mixed with heroin, cocaine, and is being sold in pill form. Buyer beware! Please call **911 immediately** if you witness a possible overdose. If you need help with detox or a recovery program, please contact one of the following:

Lowell CO-OP Team            978 631 7240  
The Lowell House            978 459 8656

Jeffrey Winward  
Lowell Fire Chief

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