



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS NORTH FLORIDA CHAPTER

NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

In This Issue

Pg. 1 – Fentanyl is a Risk to Everyone and Why Proper PPE is a Must

Pg. 2 – Radio Frequency Radiation Associated with Cancer in Male Rats

Pg. 5 - OSHA News

Pg. 7 - Job and Chapter Links

Pg. 7 - Local Chapter Officers and Chairs

Pg. 7 - Local Chapter Information

Pg. 8 – Help Wanted

Pg. 8 - Meeting Schedule

Fentanyl Risks Put Focus on Hand Protection in Many Environments

The ongoing drug epidemic in the United States is getting worse each day. Drug overdoses claimed the lives of more than 64,000 people in the United States in 2016, which is an increase of 21

percent over 2015. Opioids were responsible for some 42,000 of those deaths and synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, were responsible for almost half of that number. In fact, synthetic opioids are driving the extreme spike in drug fatalities.

The 20,000 deaths traced to synthetic opioids in 2016 were more than double the total in 2015, and overdose deaths from synthetic opioids other than methadone have increased an average of 88 percent each year since 2013. All of this points to the fact that we are losing the war on drugs, and fentanyl and other synthetic opioids are the biggest reasons why.

Fentanyl is estimated to be 50 to 100 times more powerful than heroin, and unfortunately, even small amounts of fentanyl can be fatal if ingested or inhaled. Alarming, even simple

contact with the drug can trigger adverse reactions. This means fentanyl is a real danger not just to users, but to anyone who comes in contact with it. That could include first responders, such as EMTs and police; doctors, nurses, and other emergency room staff; TSA personnel; and even hotel cleaning crews. In fact, with drug use so rampant and fentanyl use skyrocketing, these risks exist in almost all workplaces.

Wherever workers are using drugs, and more and more it's happening everywhere, co-workers are at increased risk. It is critical that workers, including those who may be in position to administer first aid, understand the signs of an overdose and how to safely treat the victim.

When dealing with a fentanyl overdose, safely treating the victim can be quite a challenge. These overdoses



are often ugly, with vomiting being a common symptom. And unfortunately, someone providing emergency aid to an overdose victim may come in contact with fentanyl in those bodily fluids; and alarmingly, fentanyl remains potent even when mixed with gastric acid.

Similarly, a co-worker and anyone else attending to an overdose victim could pick up fentanyl residue from the victim's clothing or surroundings and run the risk of exposure or even ingestion by rubbing an eye or scratching a nose. With a drug as powerful as fentanyl, such contact poses an enormous risk.

Wearing appropriate PPE is therefore critical, and it starts with proper hand protection. After all, the hands are the first and primary point of contact between the victim and the person providing aid. Just as there are gloves designed for cut protection or chemical resistance, there are gloves tested and proven to provide protection against fentanyl

and, importantly, against the combination of fentanyl and gastric acid. When choosing gloves to protect workers against fentanyl exposure, this is an important consideration.

Other features to consider when selecting an appropriate glove include:

- Extended cuff: Contact with the victim isn't likely to be limited to the area below the wrist. Gloves with extended cuffs provide protection further up the arm.
- High quality and reliability: AQL (acceptable quality level) scores for these types of gloves range anywhere from 4.0—meaning up to 4 percent of a set of gloves could include a defect—to the current industry standard of 0.65. The lower AQL is the safer choice.
- Double dipped, dual color: Contrasting interior and exterior colors make it easier to detect breaches or to notice the presence of dangerous substances on the glove's surface.

- Non-stick formulation: This eliminates troublesome sticking with tape and adhesives that can complicate and delay aid for the victim.
- Comfort and performance: These both matter, and various materials provide better grip and are gentler on the skin than others.
- Gastric acid protection: Again, this is critical in a fentanyl overdose situation. There are a few gloves on the market today that meet or exceed NIOSH recommendations for safety, allowing no permeation of either fentanyl or gastric acid for greater than 240 minutes. These are the only gloves proven to provide comprehensive protection in these overdose events.

Equipping and Educating Those at Risk

Fentanyl presents an entirely different danger in the American drug culture and in many workplaces today. Unlike prescription drugs,



cocaine, or even heroin, the users aren't the only ones at risk. Those most likely to be exposed, such as police and fire personnel, EMTs, ER staff, and forensic lab personnel, should be transitioning to gloves that provide comprehensive protection against fentanyl. Others who may potentially be at risk should at least be educated on the risks of fentanyl exposure and have access to appropriate hand protection.

OH&S

Online Edition

August 1, 2018

OHSONline.com

High Exposure to Radio Frequency Radiation has been Associated with Cancer in Male Rats

As you read this article, please take note that it is important to read it all the way through. Important information is given at the end of it.

The National Toxicology Program (NTP) concluded

there is clear evidence that male rats exposed to high levels of radio frequency radiation (RFR) like that used in 2G and 3G cell phones developed cancerous heart tumors, according to final reports released recently.

There was also some evidence of tumors in the brain and adrenal gland of exposed male rats. For female rats, and male and female mice, the evidence was ambiguous as to whether cancers observed were associated with exposure to RFR. The final reports represent the consensus of NTP and a panel of external scientific experts who reviewed the studies in March, after draft reports were issued in February.

"The exposures used in the studies cannot be compared directly to the exposure that humans experience when using a cell phone," said John Bucher, Ph.D., NTP senior scientist. "In our studies, rats and mice received radio frequency radiation across

their whole bodies. By contrast, people are mostly exposed in specific local tissues close to where they hold the phone. Additionally, the exposure levels and durations in our studies were greater than what people experience."

The lowest exposure level used in the studies was equal to the maximum local tissue exposure currently allowed for cell phone users. This power level rarely occurs with typical cell phone use. The highest exposure level in the studies was four times higher than the maximum power level permitted.

"We believe that the link between radio frequency radiation and tumors in male rats is real, and the external experts agreed," said Bucher.

The \$30 million NTP studies took more than 10 years to complete and to date are the most comprehensive assessment of health effects in animals exposed to RFR with modulations used in 2G and 3G cell phones. Of note, 2G and 3G networks were standard



when the studies were designed and are still used for phone calls and texting.

"A major strength of our studies is that we were able to control exactly how much radio frequency radiation the animals received, something that's not possible when studying human cell phone use, which has often relied on questionnaires," said Michael Wyde, Ph.D., lead toxicologist on the studies.

Mr. Wyde also noted the unexpected finding of longer lifespans among the exposed male rats. "This may be explained by an observed decrease in chronic kidney problems that are often the cause of death in older rats," Wyde said.

The animals were housed in chambers specifically designed and built for these studies. Exposure to RFR began in the womb for rats and at 5 to 6 weeks old for mice, and continued for up to two years, or most of their natural lifetime. The RFR exposure was intermittent, 10 minutes

on and 10 minutes off, totaling about nine hours each day. RFR levels ranged from 1.5-6 watts per kilogram in rats, and 2.5-10 watts per kilogram in mice.

These studies did not investigate the types of RFR used for Wi-Fi or 5G networks. "5G is an emerging technology that hasn't really been defined yet. From what we currently understand, it likely differs dramatically from what we studied," said Wyde.

For future studies, NTP is building smaller RFR exposure chambers that will make it easier to evaluate newer telecommunications technologies in weeks or months, rather than years. These studies will focus on developing measurable physical indicators, or biomarkers, of potential effects from RFR. These may include changes in metrics like DNA damage in exposed tissues, which can be detected much sooner than cancer.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration nominated cell

phone RFR for study by NTP because of widespread public use of cell phones and limited knowledge about potential health effects from long-term exposure. NTP will provide the results of these studies to FDA and the Federal Communications Commission, who will review the information as they continue to monitor new research on the potential effects of RFR.

NTP uses four categories to summarize the evidence that a substance may cause cancer:

- Clear evidence (highest)
- Some evidence
- Equivocal evidence
- No evidence (lowest)

More information on the categories is available at [National Toxicology Program](#)

Editor's Note: In response to the National Toxicology Program's news release, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a statement from Jeffrey Shuren, M.D., J.D., Director of the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health on the National



Toxicology Program's report on radiofrequency energy exposure (FDA.gov).

The statement reads, in part:

"We reviewed the recently finalized research conducted by our colleagues at the National Toxicology Program (NTP), part of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences within the National Institutes of Health, on radiofrequency energy exposure. After reviewing the study, we disagree, however, with the conclusions of their final report regarding 'clear evidence' of carcinogenic activity in rodents exposed to radiofrequency energy.

"In the NTP study, researchers looked at the effects of exposing rodents to extremely high levels of radiofrequency throughout the entire body. This is commonly done in these types of hazard identification studies and means that the study tested levels of radiofrequency energy exposures considerably above the current whole body

safety limits for cell phones. Doing this was intended to help contribute to what we already understand about the effects of radiofrequency energy on animal tissue. In fact, we only begin to observe effects to animal tissue at exposures that are 50 times higher than the current whole body safety limits set by the FCC for radiofrequency energy exposure.

"Our colleagues at NTP echoed this point in a statement earlier this year about their draft final report, including the important note that 'these findings should not be directly extrapolated to human cell phone usage.'

"We agree that these findings should not be applied to human cell phone usage."

Science Daily

Online Edition

November 1, 2018

Science Daily

OSHA NEWS

Fixed Ladders: Standards Change This November

November 19, 2018 is a key date for employers with existing outdoor fixed ladders that extend more than 24 feet above a lower level. Ladders that were erected before that date must be equipped with at least one type of device that protects workers from falling. Ladders erected after November 19, 2018, must meet a higher standard of fall protection.

OSHA spelled out these new requirements in its mammoth final rule amending federal standards for walking-working surfaces and fall protection. In that rule, OSHA noted that most outdoor fixed ladders are equipped with fall protection systems, but most outdoor fixed ladders used for billboards or outdoor advertising are not. Fixed advertising ladders are commonly equipped with wells or cages, which do provide



some stability to workers; but it is generally recognized that cages or wells do not prevent falls. Therefore, one intent of the final rule is to phase out the use of cages and wells as “fall protection.”

Consistent with Construction Standards

Specifically, the final rule gives employers with existing ladders that have only cages or wells until 2036 to ensure that such ladders are equipped with ladder safety or personal fall arrest systems. Given that the life of an outdoor fixed ladder is about 20 years, the provision essentially allows owners and employers to wait until they must purchase a new ladder system before coming into compliance. Also, employers with outdoor fixed ladders that have no protections at all have until November 19, 2018, to ensure that their ladders have at least one of four devices:

1. a cage
2. a well
3. a ladder safety system, or
4. a personal fall arrest system.

According to OSHA, one intent of the rule was to make existing general industry standards for walking-working surfaces more consistent with existing construction standards.

Performance-Based Requirements

OSHA states that the requirements in the rule are performance-based, meaning that while employers must meet a safety standard for workers, they are not required to install specific equipment. The key definitions in the rule reflect this:

- Ladder safety systems—a system designed to eliminate or reduce the possibility of falling from a fixed ladder. A ladder safety system usually consists of a carrier (i.e., a flexible cable or rigid rail track), a safety sleeve (i.e., a moving component that travels up and down on the carrier), lanyard, connectors, and body harness. Cages and wells are not considered ladder safety systems.

- Personal fall arrest system—a system used to arrest an employee in a fall from a walking-working surface. It consists of a body harness, anchorage, and connector. The means of connection may include a lanyard, deceleration device, lifeline, or a suitable combination of these.

OSHA believes that employers that have no fall protection at all on ladders subject to the rule will choose to install ladder safety systems or personal fall arrest systems before the November 2018 deadline since these systems are less expensive than cages or wells.

Billboard Ladders

As noted, OSHA expressed particular concern about the state of outdoor advertising ladders and the level of safety they provide. Currently, employers are required to install fall protection (i.e., ladder safety systems) only where the length of a climb exceeds 50 feet, or the height of the ladder extends more



than 65 feet above grade.

Here are two additional points about how the rule addresses billboard ladders:

1. Qualified climbers may continue to climb billboard fixed ladders (over 24 feet) without fall protection during the 2-year phase-in period for installing some type of fall protection on those ladders.
2. The final rule phases out OSHA's 1993 policy that allows qualified climbers to climb billboard fixed ladders without any fall protection. Once phase-in deadlines arrive, outdoor advertising employers must ensure that all billboard fixed ladders (over 24 feet) are equipped with fall protection and that all workers use those systems during the entire length of the climb.

OSHA's information page on the final rule is at [OSHA.gov](https://www.osha-slc.gov).

EHS Daily Advisor

Online Edition

November 1, 2018

[EHS Daily Advisor](https://www.assp.org/ehs-daily-advisor)

Job Market Links

[ASSP](#)

[BCSP General Safety Jobs](#)

[BCSP Construction Safety Jobs](#)

[BCSP Industrial Hygiene Jobs](#)

[EHS Careers](#)

ASSP Chapter Links

Find us on the web at:

[ASSP NFL](#)

Find us on Facebook at:

[ASSP NFL](#)

Local Chapter Officers and Chairs

Elected Officers

- President - Steve Brown
- President Elect - Bob Dooley
- Secretary - Steve Wilson
- Treasurer - Yaniv Zagagi
- Delegate - Dave Bedsole

Appointed Chairs

- Membership Chair - Eric Gray
- Program Chair - Tom Drygas
- Newsletter Chair – Bob Dooley
- Social Chair – Open

- SPY Awards Chair – Open
- Social Media Chair - Vernon Adams
- Past President - Dan Hempsall

Local Chapter Information

The North Florida Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals, formerly the American Society of Safety Engineers, was chartered in 1952 and currently has more than 165 members.

Professional meetings are held nine times per year in the Jacksonville area.

Meeting notices are distributed and RSVP's are returned by email. If you are a member of ASSP and are not receiving notices by email, please email the [Chapter Secretary](#).



Help Wanted – We Need Leadership Volunteers

Local Chapter elections are coming soon, and volunteers are needed to support the various functions of the chapter. If you are interested and able to devote time to the local chapter, please contact [Dan Hempsall](#) (Nominations Chair) or [Steve Brown](#) (President) for details. We believe that you will enjoy the experience and comradery and we most-certainly appreciate your help.

Local Chapter

Meeting Schedule

Date: November 21, 2018

Topic: Hazardous Waste /

RCRA Focus on Top Ten RCRA Violations

Speaker: Mr. Anthony Cinelli, PG, CHMM, Environmental Manager, Commercial Metals Company

Time: 11:30 Lunch &

Networking

12 Noon Meeting and

Technical Session

Location: Northeast Florida

Safety Council

1725 Art Museum Drive

Building B, Classroom D

Jacksonville, FL 32207

904-399-319

Future Meeting

Dates and Topics

- November 21, 2018 – Hazardous Waste / RCRA
- December 2018 - Winter Social
- January 16, 2019 - Zoo Safety
- February 20, 2019 - Fire Academy
- March 20, 2019 - Annual OSHA Update
- April 17, 2019 KAMAN Aerospace Facility Tour
- April – Worker’s Memorial Date and Time TBA
- May 15, 2019 - Construction Safety Topic