

# Fentanyl Used in Vape Pens



**DEA  
BULLETIN**



**San Diego  
Field  
Division**



(U) This DEA Bulletin is based on preliminary reporting and may be subject to updating as additional information becomes available.

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## Event

In September 2019, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) San Diego Division was contacted by local authorities in regards to a suspected fentanyl overdose death. The roommate of the deceased, who admitted to vaping fentanyl on a regular basis, told agents there was fentanyl and possibly carfentanil located in their shared residence, as well as fentanyl-laced “vape” tanks.

## Significance

While the presence of fentanyl powder (lethal in doses as small as two milligrams) poses a public safety threat, the ingestion of fentanyl via vaping poses a threat of unknown consequences to the user and those nearby.

## Details

In September 2019, DEA San Diego was contacted by local authorities in regards to a suspected overdose death due to fentanyl. DEA agents searched the residence and seized approximately five pounds of narcotic substances, to include fentanyl powder and multiple fentanyl related substances. Agents also seized vape pens, syringes, a pill press (which tested presumptively positive for fentanyl), and methamphetamine.

The San Diego County Medical Examiner (SDCME) reports this is was first case in which they had found fentanyl in vape pens. The SDCME confirmed the following substances were found in a vape pen seized in this case: carfentanil, furanyl fentanyl, cyclopropyl fentanyl, fentanyl, etizolam, and XLR-11 (a synthetic cannabinoid).

(U) This product was prepared by the DEA Intelligence Program – San Diego Field Division. Comments and questions may be addressed to the DEA Indicator Programs Section at: [DEA.IntelligenceProducts@usdoj.gov](mailto:DEA.IntelligenceProducts@usdoj.gov).