



SPEEDWAY FIRE

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SPEEDWAY FIREFIGHTERS TRAIN TO COMBAT HEROIN / OPIATE OD'S WITH NARCAN

The Speedway Fire Department partnered with IEMS (Indianapolis Emergency Medical Services), to receive critically important lifesaving training in the administration of an “antidote” to counteract the deadly effects of opiate Overdosing.

Although “Heroin” abuse and deaths are the headline grabbing incidents, there is currently a worldwide epidemic of accidental opiate overdoses leading to death which is especially apparent in the United States. The majority of those deaths are related not to heroin, but instead to prescription painkiller medications.

Naloxone (also known as Narcan) is a medication called an “opioid antagonist” used to counter the effects of opioid overdose, for example prescription pain medications, morphine and heroin



overdose. Specifically, naloxone (NARCAN) is used in opioid overdoses to counteract life-threatening depression of the central nervous system and respiratory system (leading to death within minutes), allowing an overdose victim to once again begin to breathe normally. Naloxone only works if a person has opioids in their system; the medication has no effect if opioids are absent. Naloxone has no potential for abuse.

All Speedway Firefighters were training during the last three days of December including New Year's Eve to get this life saving "antidote" in their rescue boxes as soon as the protocols for administration were written and approved. The training involved learning the indications and contraindications for usage, typical dosage, possible side effects and current Marion County Protocols for administering this lifesaving medication.

All members of the Speedway Fire Department participated in this "antidote" training and all are confident and ready to act when needed.

It should be noted that the existence of this "Antidote" does not make drug abuse "safer". Any intentional or accidental drug overdose causes precious life to hang in the balance and even though our SFD is trained it cannot be stressed enough that all life matters and drug abuse does, far too often, kill.

The Speedway Fire Department, as always, asks everyone to **please call 911** at the very first sign of any emergency, don't wait, don't wait. "**DO NOT WAIT**"... we are here to help no matter what the need.



ENGINEER
MIKE BOE

FIREFIGHTER
ERIC EMERSON