With overdoses and fatalities stemming from fentanyl use reaching epidemic proportions, the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) has launched a fentanyl website for first responders. This online resource was created to provide essential information about fentanyl to as many first responders as possible.

Topics covered on the website include:

- What fentanyl is and how to identify it
- Why fentanyl is so dangerous for first responders
- How to safely handle suspected fentanyl on-scene
- What is Naloxone and how it can save lives
- The latest resources for law enforcement, firefighters and paramedics

The site was developed by JIBC with funding from the Police Services Division of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. The creation of this website would not have been possible without tremendous assistance from colleagues in the first responder community in Canada and the U.S., and specialists in Health Canada, BC Ministry of Health, BC Coroner’s Office, BC Emergency Health Services and contacts within the medical profession.

First responders are currently adapting to the danger that fentanyl presents to their personal safety. The first step is improving our knowledge of the drug itself, and learning best practices in a variety of situations, such as handling drugs during a seizure or while responding to an overdose. The JIBC Fentanyl Safety website is one of several options for first responders to use as an online resource, to educate and protect themselves and their communities.”

—Steve Schnitzer, Director, JIBC Police Academy