



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 23, 2023

Exposure Incident at the Adams County Detention Facility

Adams County, Colo. (August 23, 2023):

The Adams County Detention Facility saw an overdose incident involving four female inmates inside the jail.

On August 22, 2023, at 3:38 PM, Deputies and medical staff at the Adams County Detention Facility were notified of a medical emergency involving three inmates in the same housing unit. All three inmates were unconscious and not breathing when deputies arrived. The deputies and medical staff administered Narcan, CPR, and other life-saving measures as Brighton Fire paramedics were called to assist. The other inmates in the housing unit were isolated in their cells to mitigate any further exposure. As a precaution, constant row checks were conducted to ensure no additional inmates were in a medical crisis. During those checks, a fourth inmate was found to be unconscious and unresponsive, and she was also given Narcan, CPR, and other life-saving measures. All four inmates were transported by ambulance to a local hospital as decontamination efforts were conducted. Suspected fentanyl powder was located and booked in as evidence. This investigation is early and ongoing. As more information is known, it will be made available.

Once the medical incident was over, the remaining inmates were searched, decontaminated, and moved to other housing areas. All inmates in the contaminated housing unit were monitored by medical staff throughout the night by providing continuous medical and vital checks. The housing unit was searched and professionally decontaminated with the Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) assistance. Adams County Sheriff's Office detectives responded along with investigators from the North Metro Drug Task Force (NMTF) to conduct the investigation alongside deputies and detectives from within the detention facility. Personnel from the Adams County Sheriff's Office Crime Lab responded to provide additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to detention facility staff as they performed their various duties after the incident.

Three out of the four impacted inmates are still being treated at a local hospital, and a fourth has been released from the hospital and is back in housing at the detention facility.

Although we are prepared for these incidents, this reminds us of the growing dangers of opioid exposure within our detention facility. The Adams County Sheriff's Office takes the introduction of narcotics into our detention facility very seriously. We are constantly evaluating policies, procedures, and training to improve protocols for the safety of our staff and the inmates we serve. Our detention staff facility has previously trained on mass exposure and casualty incidents, and this is the first documented incident involving multiple inmates from the same exposure. Once the situation was deemed safe, the incident was debriefed to all involved and later to all staff. Off-duty personnel came in early, on-duty personnel stayed late, and others took extra duties to assist with the incident and all the necessary follow-ups.

We want to thank the Brighton Fire Department, The NMTF, and the DEA for their assistance. We would also like to thank all impacted agencies who could not bring arrestees to the jail for two hours due to our booking and receiving areas being closed.



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