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OFFICE OF THE
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Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

1PCK: AG Moody Warns of New Deadly-Synthetic Opioid More Powerful Than Fentanyl



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is warning Floridians of a new, deadly synthetic opioid found in Florida called Isotonitazene—commonly referred to as ISO. According to reports, ISO is [approximately 20 to 100 times stronger than fentanyl](#)—an already incredibly dangerous opioid. Similar to fentanyl, this new synthetic opioid is being mixed with other drugs and appearing in the illicit drug market—possibly in powder or pill form. Often, users have no idea that a lethal synthetic opioid is mixed into a drug until it is too late. Attorney General Moody is sounding the alarm and asking people to never take an illicit drug because just one pill can kill.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “For years, we have been warning about the dangers of fentanyl and how just one pill laced with this synthetic opioid can kill. Now, there is a new, deadlier drug being found in Florida. Isotonitazene, also known as ISO, is so strong that it can kill just by coming in contact with someone’s skin or being accidentally inhaled. ISO has already been linked to overdose deaths in Florida, so please, never take any illicit drug and know that using just one time could cost you your life.”

Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco said, “ISO is a dangerous substance that we have, unfortunately, seen in Pasco County. As law enforcement continues to have to address the healthcare crisis of substance abuse, our goal remains to save lives and protect our community, which is why we have highlighted and brought awareness to the impact this dangerous substance has in our community.”

The [Drug Enforcement Administration reports](#) that, beginning in April 2019, ISO entered the illicit drug market nationally and is responsible for numerous deaths. Like fentanyl, ISO can be laced

with other drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine and even counterfeit pills. A 2021 [American Society of Addiction Medicine report](#) shows at least 40 fatal overdoses involving ISO during a six-month time period in 2020 in the counties of Cook County, Illinois and Milwaukee County, Wisconsin.

Testing by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Crime Lab revealed that ISO has been found in multiple Florida counties since 2020, and law enforcement linked this deadly-synthetic opioid to two deaths in Pasco County in 2021. [PCSO released tips](#) about how to recognize the signs of an overdose resulting from ISO, also known as Metonitazene and Etonitazene:

NEW DANGEROUS DRUG ALERT

METONITAZENE/ETONITAZENE, KNOWN COMMONLY AS "ISO", IS A DEADLY DRUG 20 TIMES MORE POTENT THAN FENTANYL.

ISO CAN BE ABSORBED BY THE BODY BY SKIN CONTACT, INGESTION OR INHALATION.


ISO IS NOW TURNING UP IN OVERDOSES AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE CASES.

SIGNS OF AN OVERDOSE:

- BLUE/PURPLE FINGERNAILS
- CLAMMY SKIN
- BLUE/PURPLE LIPS
- VOMITING
- DIFFICULTY BREATHING
- PINPOINT PUPILS
- UNCONCIOUSNESS
- DROWSINESS

ALL OF WHICH CAN OCCUR WITHIN MINUTES OF EXPOSURE.

IF YOU BELIEVE SOMEONE IS OVERDOSING, CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.



To read more about the dangers of using counterfeit pills, view Attorney General Moody's video message about these pills flooding the illicit drug market in the United States by clicking [here](#).

To help Floridians find aid and learn how to spot someone who may be using drugs, Attorney General Moody developed the Dose of Reality Florida website. Dose of Reality Florida also contains information about the dangers of opioid misuse, how to receive support for addiction and where to safely dispose of unused prescription drugs. To learn more about Dose of Reality Florida, click [here](#).