

**Ministry of
Community Safety and
Correctional Services**

Office of the
Fire Marshal and
Emergency Management

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**Ministère de la
Sécurité communautaire et
des Services correctionnels**

Bureau du
commissaire des incendies et
de la gestion des situations d'urgence

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January 26, 2018

Dear Fire Chiefs:

Further to the announcement by Ministers Hoskins and Lalonde on December 7, 2017, and my letter of the same day, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) and the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS) are pleased to launch the expansion of the Ontario Naloxone Program (ONP) to include police and fire services. This expansion will make naloxone kits available to all fire services to mitigate the impact of overdoses, and potentially to help firefighters in case of exposure to opioids.

Effective January 29, 2018, fire services will be able to contact their local Public Health Unit (PHU) to order naloxone (kits and/or refills). This expansion is available to all full-time, composite, volunteer and northern fire departments as well as First Nation fire services.

To enrol in the ONP, fire services should:

- Consult with your municipal council and boards as appropriate.
- Consult with your own legal counsel and other experts about the use of naloxone to mitigate the impact of overdoses, and also to potentially to help front-line firefighters in case of exposure to opioids.
- Enter into an agreement (e.g. Memorandum of Understanding, Service Level Agreement) with the appropriate PHU.
- Develop and/or adopt program-related policies and procedures within each service, including policies on how naloxone would be carried, stored and deployed.
- Arrange training and education for firefighters that will have access to naloxone.
- Complete a MOHLTC form to confirm enrollment and the number of naloxone kits being ordered (Form available from the PHU).
- Contact the appropriate Public Health Unit on or after January 29, 2018 to begin the enrollment process. (See link below for list of PHUs).

Enrolled fire services will be required to report quarterly to their local public health unit using a standardized form on the use of naloxone in their service. (MOHLTC has advised to contact the PHU to obtain the form).

Fire services that have already procured naloxone are eligible to apply to the program to receive new supplies of naloxone as needed. The province will not be reimbursing fire services for naloxone previously procured.

Fire services should be aware of storage considerations and that not all fire apparatus are located in heated bays, particularly in some northern municipalities, which may make it difficult to store naloxone at the required ambient temperature.

For further information on the ONP you can visit the MOHLTC website at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-naloxone-kits-free> .

To obtain a list of Public Health Unit locations please visit the MOHLTC website at <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/phu/locations.aspx>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ross Nichols", followed by a horizontal line.

Ross Nichols
Fire Marshal and Chief, Emergency Management
Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management