



Chambersburg Fire Department

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Nalaxone/Narcan

Fire Department Press Release -

On September 23, 2016, the Chambersburg Fire Department equipped all apparatus with the medicine Naloxone, or better known as Narcan. This life saving medication can stop or even reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Opioids can be classified as prescription medications such as morphine, hydrocodone, and oxycodone, and also listed as illegal drugs such as heroin.

The medication comes in a 2 mg dosage that is given nasally and the results can be seen in less than a minute depending on how severe the overdose. If need be an additional dosage can be given during life saving procedures. In many instances overdoses follow a systematic path of unconsciousness, respiratory distress or failure, and then cardiac arrest. When seconds matter during an overdose emergency, the ambulance is usually the first to arrive on a medical emergency. With the approval for Basic Life Support units to carry Nalaxone, quick recognition and administration of the medication is crucial.

Since implementation less than a week ago, the fire department has responded to three confirmed overdoses. During these responses emergency medical technicians administered a single dose to two of the patients, and a double dosage to the third patient. Out of the three overdoses, every patient had the effects of the overdose reversed and was alert and talking before they left the scene to be transported to the hospital. With time being of the essence, the Chambersburg Fire Department ambulance arrived on the scene and administered Nalaxone to the patient in less than six minutes from the time the call was received at the 911 dispatch center.

The mission of the Chambersburg Fire Department is to deliver superior emergency medical service to all that live, work, or visit the Borough of Chambersburg. With this, the fire department is devoted to continuing to provide life saving measures and with the addition of Nalaxone this can be accomplished.