



PERQUIMANS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

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Jonathan A. Nixon, Director

PRESS RELEASE – POST OVERDOSE RESPONSE TEAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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On May 31, 2019, Perquimans County Emergency Services implemented our Post Overdose Response Team which is being sponsored by a grant through the NC Office of EMS. The purpose of this team is to reduce substance abuse in Camden, Pasquotank and Perquimans counties and to inform those impacted about what options are available for assistance.

Substance abuse disorders occur when the recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs causes impairment such as health problems, disabilities, or failure to meet major responsibilities at home, work, or school. The diagnosis for substance abuse is based on evidence of impaired control, social impairment, risky use, and pharmacological criteria.

When an individual has a non-fatal overdose event, the goal of the Post Overdose Response Team Program is to educate and provide harm reduction alternatives such as treatment or recovery options to the patients and their families. Within 24 hours of a post overdose event, a prehospital care provider (Advanced EMT or Paramedic) will follow-up with the patient to assess for any potential pulmonary or cardiac complications that may have arisen from the administration of Narcan.

An additional visit will occur 72 hours after the post overdose event to individuals that actively use drugs on a regular basis to share options that are available to them, such as treatment facilities and/or detoxification services.

Since starting this program, we have seen five patients that have experienced an overdose and our supervisors are following up with four of those patients.

There are resources available so if you or someone you know suffers from substance abuse and would like help, please call Perquimans County Emergency Services at 252-426-5646. For an emergency, always dial 911.



This picture was taken after a recent overdose call where several dosages of Naloxone had to be administered to restore the patient's breathing.