



## CITY OF FAIRBANKS/ FAIRBANKS FIRE DEPARTMENT



### Press Release

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Project Hope/Narcan Kits**

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In response to the current opioid crisis, the City of Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD) is now participating in the State of Alaska sponsored program Project Hope. Project Hope provides opioid overdose rescue kits to individuals at no cost. The kits include two 4mg Narcan nasal administration devices, gloves, a CPR shield, and instructions. Narcan temporarily blocks or reverses the effects of opioids very quickly allowing a person that is overdosing the ability to breathe again.

Opioid abuse has had a major impact on Fairbanks and Alaska as a whole. Since 2016, Fairbanks Fire personnel have administered Narcan 61 times in suspected drug overdoses. Fairbanks Fire will now be distributing the Narcan kits at any call where a kit has previously been used in an overdose situation and in any situation where it appears a kit may be beneficial. Additionally, anyone wishing to have a kit can go to the Fairbanks Fire Station and be given a kit.

Mayor Matherly greatly supports Project Hope's efforts to prevent and reduce opioid abuse and deaths related to such abuse. He is pleased that Fairbanks Fire will be providing these rescue kits to the public and urges members of the public to show compassion to those dealing with addiction and to those with loved ones that struggle with addiction.

Special thanks to FFD Battalion Chief Greg Taylor for coordinating the department's participation in Project Hope!

Those interested in having an opioid rescue kit can either pick one up at Fairbanks Fire Department (1101 Cushman Street) or call 450-6600.

More information about Project Hope and the opioid crisis in Alaska can be found at:  
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Director/Pages/heroin-opioids/default.aspx>

