Deadly counterfeit pills are on the rise in our communities.

ALERT : Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office

In recent weeks, area law enforcement agencies, working with detectives from Partners Against Narcotics Trafficking (PANT), have been investigating several cases involving pills containing fentanyl.

It is important to remember that even a small dose of fentanyl can cause the user to overdose or die and such incidents have occurred in Yavapai County in recent months. The pills being found in the community have no visible indication as to their contents.

As a community we can help stop this drug epidemic from claiming the lives of those we love by talking about the dangers of drug use.

Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office, along with local law enforcement partners and MATFORCE, urge families to talk now, and often, about the dangers of drug use. With fentanyl-laced pills available in our community, it is very important that teens understand the life-threatening risk of sharing pills at parties, and how drug experimentation can have fatal consequences.

CONFIRMED: The “M 30” imprinted tablets contained fentanyl

According to the DEA, fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine. Pharmaceutical fentanyl was developed for pain management treatment of cancer patients, applied in a patch on the skin.

Because of its powerful opioid properties, fentanyl is also diverted for abuse. Fentanyl is added to heroin to increase its potency, or be disguised as highly potent heroin. Many users believe that they are purchasing heroin and actually don't know that they are purchasing fentanyl – which often results in overdose deaths.

Cladestinely-produced fentanyl is primarily manufactured in Mexico.

CONFIRMED: The “A 215” imprinted tablets contained carfentanil

According to the DEA, carfentanil is a synthetic opioid approximately 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl. Carfentanil is used as a tranquilizing agent for elephants and other large mammals.

The presence of carfentanil in Arizona is cause for concern since the relative drug strength could lead to an increase in overdoses and overdose-related fatalities, even among people with an opioid-tolerance due to opioid abuse.

Both fentanyl and carfentanil pose a high risk to first responders, healthcare providers, law enforcement personnel, and family or community members who may encounter this substance. Safety protocols should be followed to avoid accidental exposure in any situation where a fentanyl-related substance might be present.

Find detailed safety measures at azdhs.gov.