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## CALDWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

April 26, 2023

On April 24, 2023, the Caldwell Police Department released information about an incident that ultimately ended with an officer being hospitalized. Last night, in response to our report, KTVB released an article with a headline that read, “You cannot give yourself Narcan if you are experiencing a fentanyl overdose”: Specialists weigh in on a Caldwell officer overdose.” Due to the feedback that both releases have received, the Department would like to readdress its position on the topic.

The Caldwell Police Department remains firm in its summary of the facts from April 24. An officer responded and arrested a subject who, when searched, was in possession of multiple forms of illicit fentanyl. Roughly twenty minutes following the handling of and exposure to the recovered illicit fentanyl, the officer transported the subject and began to experience physical symptoms that are commonly associated with exposure to fentanyl and/or other illicit drugs. As seen in the body-worn camera footage, the officer then relayed those symptoms to dispatchers, parked his vehicle, self-administered Narcan, and was transported to the hospital for treatment.

In their coverage, KTVB interviewed a medical toxicologist who discussed possible explanations for the symptoms that our officer was experiencing. The toxicologist seemingly communicated his concern that misinformation about fentanyl may lead to public safety officers developing a fear that impacts their ability to render aid, stating that he has personally seen that “people do not want to respond to someone who is having a real overdose because they are worried that if they get close and touch them, they will have this secondhand exposure overdose themselves.” We appreciate the concern from KTVB and this medical professional. However, we are proud to say that our officer displayed the exact opposite reaction when he bravely, and without hesitation, responded to a call for service.

To be clear, the Caldwell Police Department is not interested in rendering any sort of medical conclusion – we are police officers, not medical doctors. Regardless, we consider the safety and well-being of all members of the public to be our top priority. This includes our personnel. We stand strong on this message irrespective of our expertise in medicine: the illicit use of fentanyl harms everyone that it encounters, and its impact should not be taken lightly.