

MOUNT PROSPECT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Sergeant Anthony Addante conducts naloxone training session in December at the Mount Prospect Police Department.

MOUNT PROSPECT POLICE DEPLOYS NALOXONE TO OFFICERS

Mount Prospect police officers now have the ability to administer potentially lifesaving medication to patients experiencing opiate overdoses. In cooperation with the DuPage County Public Health Department, several members of the Department attended a train-the-trainer course and subsequently conducted training with all sworn personnel during the month of December.

“We are pleased to join other first responders, including the Mount Prospect Fire Department, equipped with this potentially lifesaving measure,” said Police Chief Tim Janowick. “Our police officers will now be able to react and administer this medication when encountering a person believed to be experiencing an opiate overdose.”

With COURAGE we protect, with COMPASSION we serve.

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The Department purchased naloxone for all of its sworn personnel through the DuPage County Department of Public Health. Officers will dispense the medication nasally after assessing the situation. Once the naloxone is administered, patient recovery from the overdose is generally very quick.

Naloxone counteracts life-threatening depression of the central nervous and respiratory systems, allowing the patient to breathe normally. Naloxone only works if opiates are present in the patient's body. A patient experiencing a different medical event would not be adversely affected by the administration of naloxone.

"The opiate addiction is a very real problem for the entire Chicago metropolitan area and across the nation," Chief Janowick continued. "Mount Prospect is not immune. Studies show opiate addictions often start with the abuse of prescribed opiate-based medications and transition to the use of heroin. By administering this medication, police officers will be able to give a patient a chance to fight their addictions after recovering from an overdose."

To reduce the risk of a gateway to addiction, the Mount Prospect Police Department strongly encourages residents to take advantage of events such as the federal Drug Enforcement Agency's Drug Take-Back Days to dispose of unused or expired medication, particularly those with addictive tendencies.

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