

STURGEON COUNTY

STANDARDS FOR BUILDINGS CONTAMINATED BY FENTANYL AND CARFENTANIL

WHEREAS fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid pain medication;

WHEREAS carfentanil is a highly potent analogue of fentanyl;

WHEREAS fentanyl and its analogues pose significant hazard, potentially fatal, to persons who come into contact with minuscule amounts via inhalation, ingestion and skin contact;

WHEREAS there is rapid rise in illegal consumption and production of fentanyl and carfentanil;

WHEREAS the products are often produced in buildings not designed for this activity, which increases risks of contamination and building damage;

WHEREAS buildings that house fentanyl labs pose complex challenges for cleaning and remediation;

WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to inspect and certify that fentanyl contaminated dwellings are safe for habitation; and,

WHEREAS no standard is established to define or guide this certification;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta to establish defined standards and consistent regulated approaches for inspecting buildings contaminated by fentanyl or carfentanil.

Member Background

Sturgeon County remains committed to working with the Government of Alberta to maintain safe communities. The presence and exposure of fentanyl labs has created some public safety concerns regarding their presence in communities with children, remediation and the danger of third-party exposure. Currently no protocol or standards exist to determine that a remediated building is safe for employees, residents or human habitation. However, since no standards exist, remediation efforts have been put on hold. As more drug labs are exposed, we believe this experience is or will likely be common amongst other Counties and Municipal Districts across Alberta.

Therefore, the intent of this resolution is to advocate for the development of standards and consistent regulated approaches to ensure that properties once contaminated by fentanyl and carfentanil are remediated and meet the requirements to be declared safe for entry and habitation.