



MEDIA RELEASE

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Sheriff-Coroner

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Jim Hart

Sheriff-Coroner

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In 2023, Santa Cruz County had an astonishing 133 overdose deaths related to Fentanyl. In response, Sheriff Hart has created a Fentanyl Crisis Response Team to address the devastating impact of Fentanyl overdoses on the community.

Our Fentanyl Crisis Response Team is collaborating with our local and federal justice partners and aims to apprehend drug dealers responsible for distributing Fentanyl, thus holding them accountable for the lives lost. This approach not only seeks justice, but also serves as a deterrent to those who engage in the illegal distribution of this deadly substance. The team includes one lieutenant, one sergeant, five detectives and a narcotics detection K9.

The Sheriff's Office recognizes that enforcement alone will not solve this crisis. That is why we are also partnering with our local schools, treatment providers, religious organizations, and the community to take a comprehensive approach to addressing this crisis. Education, prevention of first use, and support services are crucial components in mitigating the impact of Fentanyl on individuals and families.

To view our video introducing the Sheriff's Office Fentanyl Crisis Response team, visit https://fb.watch/sdY_TgBm96/.

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