

# New synthetic drug 10× stronger than fentanyl found in Kentucky

BY MELISSA PATRICK  
KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

The Kentucky Office of Homeland Security has issued a warning that a new synthetic opioid named cyclorphine has been detected in Central Kentucky.

The public safety advisory, which was posted on the agency's Facebook page, said cyclorphine is approximately 10 times stronger than fentanyl and is contributing to overdose deaths in neighboring regions, including eastern Tennessee. Further, the homeland security office says that

because this drug is frequently mixed with other illegal narcotics, this places users at extreme risk of unintentional exposure.

Officials are currently uncertain whether Narcan — the overdose-reversing medication — is fully effective against cyclorphine. However, John Moses, harm reduction team leader at the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department, told WLEX-TV that anyone who suspects an overdose should administer Narcan immediately. "Since it is a synthetic opioid, we hope it will work,

but the potency of it may require more doses than we would normally give," Moses said.

The Kentucky Office of Homeland Security offers this advice to first responders, health care providers and law enforcement personnel:

- Exercise extreme caution when handling any unknown or illicit substances.
- Utilize appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to prevent accidental exposure.
- Treat all suspected cyclorphine-related overdoses as medical emergencies.

• Immediately report any confirmed or suspected cases to local public safety authorities.

The Kentucky Department for Public Health offers other ways to be prepared:

- Always keep naloxone, a drug that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, on hand and administer it if you suspect an overdose. Naloxone may help regardless of the drug taken. Naloxone and other harm reduction supplies are available at local health departments. Click here to find a Syringe Service Program. Click here to find

naloxone distribution sites or instructions for how to order it by mail.

- Find available treatment and recovery options for substance use disorder at FindHelpNowKY.org or call 1-833-859-4357 during business hours, or 1-800-854-6813 after business hours.
- Call 911 if you suspect an overdose.
- Also, health officials advise people who use drugs not to use them alone.

DPH also offers advice for how to use Naloxone:

- Naloxone should be administered whenever

overdose is suspected, that is, when a person is unresponsive and breathing slowly, shallowly or not at all.

- Naloxone should be followed by rescue breathing for a period of 2-3 minutes.
- If breathing is not restored after 2-3 minutes, an additional dose of naloxone may be administered. Continue giving rescue breaths.
- This cycle can be repeated every 2-3 minutes until breathing is restored or EMS arrives.

## HEGSETH

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in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Our ambitions are not utopian; they are realistic, scoped to our interests and the defense of our people and our allies," he said. "This is not Iraq. This is not endless. ... This is the opposite. This operation [has] a clear, devastating, decisive mission: destroy the missile threat, destroy the navy, no nukes."

Hegseth said Epic Fury doesn't include nation-building or democracy building goals.

Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said planning for an operation such as Epic Fury has been underway for a significant amount of time.

"This marked the culmination of months, and in some cases, years, of deliberate planning and refinement against this particular target set," Caine

said. "From precision strikes against key military infrastructure to persistent intelligence and targeting integration to the close coordination of the components across vast distances, this operation again demonstrated America's reach, readiness and professionalism, and that of our joint united force."

Over the last 30 days, at the direction of the secretary, Caine said, the joint force repositioned forces around the region in order to provide President Donald J. Trump with options, if he intended to act.

"These movements ensured that U.S. forces remained postured, protected and ready to respond decisively [to] any emerging threat," he said.

That effort included thousands of service members, hundreds of advanced fighter aircraft, refueling tankers, a sustained flow of munitions, fuel and supplies, and the USS

Abraham Lincoln and USS Gerald R. Ford carrier strike groups, along with their air wings. More capabilities continue to flow into the region, Caine said.

"This rapid buildup of forces demonstrated the joint force's ability to adapt and project power at the time and place of our nation's choosing," Caine said.

The final word that Epic Fury was going to happen, he added, came from the president, Feb. 27, in the afternoon.

"Operation Epic Fury approved. No aborts. Good luck," Caine said, relaying the message from the president.

"In the region, every element of the joint force made their final preparations," he said. "Air defense batteries readied themselves, checking their systems to respond to Iranian attacks. Pilots and crews rehearsed their strike packages for the final time. Aircrews began loading their

final weapons, and two carrier strike groups began to move towards their launching points across the globe."

U.S. Cyber Command and U.S. Space Command, he said, initiated action with non-kinetic effects to disable Iran's communications ability. And then, at 1:15 a.m. EST, 9:45 a.m. Tehran time, Epic Fury kicked off.

"More than 100 aircraft launched from land and sea: fighters, tankers, airborne early warning, electronic attack, bombers from the states and unmanned platforms forming a single synchronized wave," he said. "This was a daylight strike based on a trigger event conducted by the Israeli Defense Forces, enabled by the U.S. intelligence community."

On the sea, the Navy launched Tomahawk missiles at Iran and attacked Iranian naval forces. While on the ground, he said, coordinated salvos of precision standoff

weapons from across the region neutralized hundreds of preplanned targets.

"This was a massive, overwhelming attack across all domains of warfare, striking more than 1,000 targets in the first 24 hours," Caine said. "We are now roughly 57 hours into the operation. In the initial phase, Centcom's focus was systematic, targeting of Iranian command and control, infrastructure, naval forces, ballistic missile sites and intelligence infrastructure — designed to dazzle and confuse them."

As a result of strikes in Iran, Caine said the U.S. has established local air superiority, which enhances the ability to protect U.S. forces and allows them to continue operations there.

"Operation Epic Fury stands as a reminder of what the United States military uniquely delivers: the ability to project power on a global scale with speed, surprise, precision and overwhelming

force, when and where our nation requires it," Caine said. "What we've demonstrated over the past several days reflects years of investment in readiness, joint integration and professionalism of the joint force."

During the briefing, Hegseth also directly addressed U.S. troops who are participating in Epic Fury, telling them that both he and the president have their backs.

"We will finish this on 'America First' conditions of President Trump's choosing — nobody else's — as it should be," Hegseth said. "And know this above all, President Trump and I have your back, always. Through fire, through criticism, through fake news, through everything, we unleash you because you are the best, most powerful, most lethal fighting force the world has ever seen."

## GOODWINE

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transitioned to the bench. She has also chaired the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and has remained active in civic and professional organizations, including the Central Kentucky American Inn of Court and the Rotary Club of Lexington.

A graduate of the University of Kentucky's Gatton College of Business and the UK College of Law, Goodwine later earned a Master of Judicial Studies degree from Duke University School of Law. Throughout her career, she has received numerous honors recognizing her work in the legal profession and community service.

But Saturday's address focused less on accolades and more on the journey that shaped her.

Goodwine said her dream of becoming a judge began at age 16 during a school visit to a courthouse, where she noticed few people in the profession who looked like her. That early experience, she said, planted a goal that would carry her through profound hardship.

Born to a teenage mother and later adopted by foster parents, Goodwine described a childhood grounded in faith and discipline. She planned to attend college on scholarship but stayed home when her father was diagnosed with terminal cancer. He died months later.

While continuing her education, she received another devastating event: her mother was shot and killed by a family member. The trauma, she said, was followed by serious health challenges that left her hospitalized for extended periods. She was eventually diagnosed with Crohn's

disease after enduring multiple surgeries and a coma.

Doctors advised her to live a low-stress life, she said, but she refused to abandon her ambition.

Instead, she returned to complete her undergraduate degree at the University of Kentucky, went on to law school and steadily worked toward a judicial career. She credited her church community for supporting her through her darkest moments and said faith anchored her resolve.

Goodwine also addressed what she described as threats to democratic institutions, stressing the importance of judicial independence, civic education and voter participation.

"Justice begins at the ballot box," she said, encouraging attendees to remain informed and engaged. She warned against apathy, saying silence and inaction can undermine

hard-fought progress.

The program included musical selections, prayer and recognition of community leaders, clergy, educators and

public officials.

As Goodwine concluded her remarks, she urged attendees to continue building on the work of those who

came before them.

"History is not just about where we've been," she said. "It helps guide where we're going."

South Christian and Todd County Newspaper



The Post is a family community newspaper for people living in South Christian County, Fort Campbell area and Todd County.

The Eagle Post, a weekly newspaper, provides unprecedented coverage of local government, community events, birth announcements and other items of interest to all residents. The Post is available at stores and newsracks in Oak Grove, Pembroke, Guthrie, Trenton, Elkton and Hopkinsville.

THE POST is published every Thursday and is part of Kentucky New Era, Russellville's News Democrat, and The Cadiz Record newspaper group. If you are living within the city limits of Oak Grove and are not receiving a copy of The Eagle Post you may call 270-887-3275 or pick up a copy at any of the following locations.

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## CHINA

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The penny pinching has small business owners complaining about hard times.

China reported it reached "around 5%" economic growth in 2025, but economists question some official data.

The relatively robust pace of growth was supported by strong manufacturing as exports surged, despite U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff hikes and other disruptions to trade.

"Hitting the 2025 growth target is hardly reassuring as the Chinese economy is losing growth momentum, with rising imbalances and enormous structural problems being papered over by a surge in export-driven growth," Eswar Prasad, a professor of economics and trade policy at Cornell University, told The Associated Press in emailed comments.

### PROPERTY SLUMP PERSISTS

A downturn in China's housing market began several years ago and piecemeal efforts to revive the industry

have made only fitful progress. Dozens of property developers defaulted on their debts as authorities cracked down on excessive borrowing. With overall home prices down 20% or more from 2021, a recovery remains elusive.

The meltdown in one of

the country's biggest industries eliminated hundreds of thousands of jobs and with 12.7 million graduates entering the job market this year, more than 16% of young Chinese are

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## LEGAL NOTICE

### Notice of Public Meeting

The Clarksville Urbanized Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CUAMPO) Executive Board will be meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2026 beginning at 11:00 a.m. Said meeting will be an in-person meeting at the RPC in the lower conference room, open to all with an on-line/virtual meeting option at the MPO website: [www.cuampo.com](http://www.cuampo.com). The link to join the meeting will be on the MPO website's home page. The Executive Board must attend the meeting in person to vote. Business includes: the review and adoption of: Resolution 2026-04 to amend the FY2026-FY2027 UPWP to change the allocation for FY2027 for KYTC PL funds; and other updates by TDOT, KYTC, and TDEC.

Said documents are available for public review during normal business hours at the MPO and available online at [www.cuampo.com](http://www.cuampo.com). The discussion of air quality, project updates and other routine business may be conducted. Anyone having questions or comments concerning these items should contact Michael Ziarnek or Jill Hall at 931-645-7448 or email [michael.ziarnek@cityofclarksville.com](mailto:michael.ziarnek@cityofclarksville.com) and/or attend this meeting. In accordance with the "Americans with Disabilities Act", if you have a disability, for which the MPO needs to provide accommodations, please notify us of your requirements by March 13, 2026. This request does not have to be in writing. It is the policy of the MPO to ensure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 49 CFP part 26; No person shall be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal funds on the grounds of Race, Color, Sex or National Origin.