



# WARRENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Pride in Community · Excellence in Service

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## PRESS RELEASE

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January 31, 2019

### **Officer Saves Overdose Victim**

Warrenton, OR – On January 30, 2019 at 7:49pm Warrenton Police Department (WPD) officers were dispatched to a possible overdose at 58 E. Harbor Dr. Officer Robert Wirt responded and was the first emergency responder to arrive on scene. Officer Wirt grabbed his department overdose kit from his patrol vehicle and found several subjects around a 35-year old man who was unresponsive with shallow breathing and laying on the sidewalk.

Officer Wirt recognized the symptoms as a possible opioid overdose so he administered a dose of Narcan (Naloxone) into the man's nose. After a short time, it did not appear the man was responding so Officer Wirt administered a second dose of Narcan to the man and he soon regained consciousness, saving the man's life. Warrenton Fire personnel had arrived on scene and began treating the man. The man later admitted to using Heroin before losing consciousness. The man was eventually transported by Medix ambulance to Columbia Memorial Hospital for further treatment.

This is the first time a WPD Officer has used Narcan since the department started carrying it on December 29, 2017. In 2017 the WPD received a grant from Lines for Life to help start the program to carry and administer the overdose drug. The WPD received ten doses of Naloxone from the Columbia Memorial Hospital Pharmacy at a cost of \$75 a piece or \$150 per two-dose pack. The remaining items in the overdose kit (bag, rescue breathing mask, safety masks, gloves, etc.) were purchased by the department and a kit was placed in each patrol vehicle. All WPD officers were then trained on the administration of the Narcan.

WPD officers have responded to several overdose incidents since beginning to carry the overdose kits but this is the first time an officer has needed to use the Narcan to save someone's life. Narcan was used on some of these overdoses but not by the police. The reasons the WPD carry overdose kits is to use on drug-users, accidental overdoses of prescribed medications, accidental overdoses by children who get access to medications and drugs, as well as exposure-overdoses by officers, evidence techs, and others who search the property of people. The department even has a Narcan kit for its Narcotic's K9 "Gabe."

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