



## OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

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# TIP OF THE WEEK

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## NARCAN

You've probably been hearing a lot of talk about "Narcan" recently and may be wondering what it's all about. The Sheriff's Office sent out a media release a while back when Samaritan Health Services donated 35 units (70 doses) of Narcan medication to supply all Sheriff's Office patrol vehicles and the Lincoln County Jail.

Narcan (medically known as Naloxone) is an FDA-approved nasal spray that is used to treat an opioid overdose and saves lives. Examples of opioid drugs include the illegal drug heroin as well as legally prescribed pain relievers such as hydrocodone (brand names Vicodin & Lortab), oxycodone (brand names Oxycontin & Percodan), codeine, and many others.

Opioid addiction has become one of the leading causes of accidental death in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) states that prescription opioids killed more than 33,000 people in 2015, more than any year on record. Nearly half of all opioid overdose deaths involve a prescription opioid.

Opioid medications are an effective pain reliever for moderate to severe pain. They act by attaching to specific proteins, called opioids, found on nerve cells in the brain, spinal cord, and other organs in the body. In addition to relieving pain, they produce a sense of well-being while at the same time causing mental confusion and drowsiness. When a person experiences an opioid overdose, their breathing slows down and may stop which makes it very difficult to wake them. If Narcan is administered in a timely fashion, it rapidly blocks the effects of the opioid and reverses the overdose, effectively saving their life.

If you are suffering with a drug addiction problem or know someone who is, contact The Addiction Recovery Program at Lincoln County Behavioral Health by calling 541-265-4179. If it's an emergency situation, dial 911. Call the Sheriff's Office at 541-265-0777 if you need assistance from a Deputy due to a criminal situation.

For more information and tips, visit our website at [www.lincolncountysheriff.net](http://www.lincolncountysheriff.net) and "Like" us on Facebook at Lincoln County Sheriff's Office – Oregon.