



POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Increase in Suspected Drug Overdoses

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – May 18, 2020 – Recently, Athens Police Officers have responded to an unusually high volume of suspected drug overdoses.

In the month of May, officers have responded to twelve suspected drug overdoses. In the vast majority of these incidents, Narcan has been utilized and the subjects have survived. Unfortunately, at least three of these incidents have resulted in death.

The Athens Police Department is working with the 10th Judicial District Drug Task Force in an attempt to gain more information regarding where the drugs came from and why there have been such a large number of overdoses. Officers are also making procedural adjustments, including issuing extra Narcan to officers.

Chief Couch, of the Athens Police Department, said “this marked increase in suspected drug overdoses is obviously very concerning. We’re doing everything we can to find out what’s behind it. The dealers who peddled these drugs need to be held accountable. In the meantime, if you have a drug problem, please seek help immediately. The next hit you take may kill you, as it did these other individuals.”

Anyone needing help finding drug treatment is encouraged to call 211. This is a referral line that may be able to connect individuals with appropriate help locally.

Anyone with information about these ongoing drug overdoses is asked to contact the police department by calling (423) 744-2700 option 2.