

Know about Narcan

Run time - :33

ANCHOR LEDE: August 31st marks International Overdose Awareness Day. It's a time to know the facts about overdoses and ways to reverse the deadly effects. One such way is naloxone [nah-LOX-own], known under the brand name Narcan [NARR-kan]. It's a medication that has become more available in recent years to both first responders and everyday citizens. Tim Ditman of OSF HealthCare has more.

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Les Mennenga [MEN-ah-gah] is an E-M-S educator with OSF. He says Narcan helps restore breathing of people who've ingested things like fentanyl, morphine and heroin. Narcan is commonly given through a nasal spray.

**\*\*\*SOUNDBITE\*\*\***

**Les Mennenga, OSF HealthCare EMS educator**

**"Narcan gets to those receptor sites, competes with the opioid and will knock it off. It will help the person restore their breathing." (:07)**

Mennenga also says not everyone who overdoses is your stereotypical drug user. For example, a senior citizen could accidentally take too many pain pills.

I'm Tim Ditman.

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ANCHOR TAG: If you want a home supply of Narcan, talk to your local public health department. State and federal health agencies also have resources for the opioid crisis.