

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

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**Outstanding Work - Cannon River Drug & Violent Offender Task Force Quickly Arrests an Adult Male Suspected of Selling Fentanyl Laced Heroin that Caused an Overdose Death Earlier in the Day.**

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On Tuesday (6/19/18) around noon, Faribault patrol officers responded to a residence in the 100 block of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW on a reported medical. Upon arrival, officers located a 38 year old unresponsive adult male showing evidence of a possible overdose. Life-saving efforts by officers and Faribault Rescue to revive the victim using CPR and administering Narcan were unsuccessful. Faribault investigators and agents with the Cannon River Drug & Violent Offenders Task Force began searching possible connections to heroin distributors in the area. After obtaining evidence in the investigation, the task force focused on a local supplier of heroin, and with assistance from the South Central Drug Investigation Unit, they were able to locate the suspect. The heroin supplier was identified as Anthony Michael Fugalli (age 27) of Faribault. The task forces created a plan and took Fugalli into custody around 10:00 PM, only ten hours after the overdose investigation began. Fugalli was arrested for 1<sup>st</sup> degree sales and jailed.

Fugalli confessed to selling heroin and also stated he warned the victim that the drug may contain fentanyl. The CRDVOTF will work with the Rice County Attorney's office to put together a possible homicide case along with multiple felony drug charges as the investigation is ongoing. Agents are waiting on confirmation on all toxicology tests and forensics tests to compile all related evidence.

The Faribault Police Chief stated, "The quick efforts to take this poison peddling drug dealer into custody was outstanding. To have a drug dealer in-custody only hours after an overdose death and build a solid case is extremely rare. Removing Fugalli from the community was truly great work."

Fentanyl and other derivatives of fentanyl are extremely dangerous and law enforcement across Minnesota is seeing more overdose deaths as heroin is being cut with the deadly synthetic opioid which is 50-100 times more potent than morphine. The public should be warned that using heroin alone is extremely dangerous but purchasing the drug from an unknown source that may be cutting it with fentanyl can often be deadly.

The Cannon River Drug & Violent Offender Task Force Commander, Dave Dillon said, "The above and beyond coordinated efforts with all law enforcement involved was incredible. I urge anyone with additional information regarding a suspected heroin overdoses or information of those supplying heroin in our community to contact the Cannon River Drug & Violent Task Force."