



KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
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Kent County Deputy, EMT Newlyweds Team Up to Save Man from Overdose

KENT COUNTY - In a 24-hour period last weekend, six individuals reportedly overdosed on heroin in Kent County. The Kent County Sheriff Department, along with a number of other agencies, is extremely concerned about this growing epidemic. While this is an issue not taken lightly, the Kent County Sheriff Department wants to take a moment to focus on the dedication of its first responders in this struggle, and share a unique rescue story.

Kent County Sheriff Department Deputy Patrick Stewart stopped by the Cutlerville Fire Department last week, when someone began pounding loudly on the door. He went outside, where a male was laying in the backseat of a car; the man was not breathing and had no pulse, dying of an apparent heroin overdose. Deputy Stewart recalls his thoughts, "Stay calm, let's assess what we have."

Deputy Stewart removed the man from the car and started chest compressions. "While I was performing chest compressions my mind was set on making sure I'm doing it right, doing everything I can for this person, and the words running through my head were 'c'mon breathe... breathe,'" Deputy Stewart recalls. "It's very stressful having the patient's friends behind me, watching over my shoulder crying and counting on me to bring their loved one back."

He was able to regain a pulse as paramedics arrived on scene. On the responding paramedic team: Pat's wife, Amanda, who he married just four months ago. "As the ambulance pulled into the parking lot, she jumped out. I remember seeing the look of determination on her face and I knew this patient was in good hands. My gut reaction was just to look at her and say 'let's do this,'" Deputy Stewart says. Paramedics started an I.V. and gave the man Narcan, which fights the effects of opioids.

Together the newly married couple saved this man's life. "I can't even explain fully how great we both feel after not just being part of saving this person's life but having the opportunity to do it together," Deputy Stewart says. "After the patient had gone to the hospital, we had sent a message to each other expressing how proud we are of each other. I'll never forget coming home from our shifts, smiling, hugging, saying we love each other, and then a fist bump for 'Team Stewart'."

"This is a tough issue, seeing so many young people being hurt by heroin, but Pat and Amanda Stewart showed dedication and professionalism responding to this emergency and giving this man a second chance," said Undersheriff Michelle Young. "We are very proud of them for their hard work and commitment to saving lives."

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