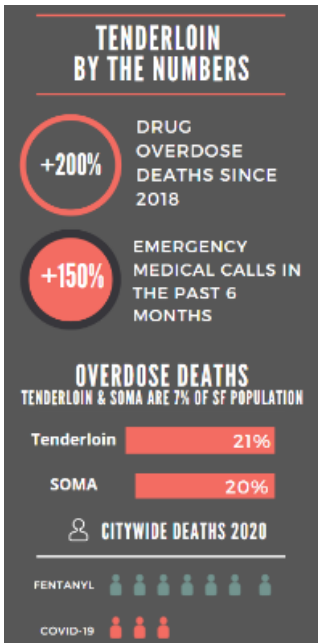


Emergency Declaration for the Tenderloin Emergency Initiative

Why is this Emergency Declaration needed for the Tenderloin?



The current state of conditions in the Tenderloin are not acceptable. Deaths from drug overdose are at epidemic levels in San Francisco and have increased over 200% since 2018. Fentanyl entering the illegal drug market has exponentially exacerbated accidental overdoses and drug-related deaths, with the Office of the Medical Examiner finding that fentanyl was a factor in more than 70% of overdose deaths between January and October 2021. 21% of these overdose deaths occurred in the Tenderloin with an additional 20% of deaths occurring in the South of Market neighborhood despite these areas comprising only 7% of the city's population. Medical 911 calls requesting help for sick persons in the Tenderloin have increased more than 150% in the last 6 months alone.

The Mayor has declared a state of emergency to address the conditions of extreme peril in the Tenderloin. She has directed DEM to model this response based on the COVID-19 response because we now know what can be accomplished when operations are prioritized and coordinated appropriately. The status quo is not working. This emergency declaration prompts immediate change for the Tenderloin.

What is this Emergency Declaration about and what will it do for residents?

This emergency declaration is about health. The declaration is about the conditions of extreme peril in the Tenderloin proven by the increased numbers of medical calls, distribution of Narcan (a medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose), and overdose deaths. Unhealthy street conditions, lack of accessible resources for those in crisis, and the open drug scene have caused the problems we are seeing today. This declaration is more than just symbolic because it unites city departments and their operations in the Tenderloin for the first time under an emergency command, it reduces the timeline of standing up linkage to essential social services from 6-9 months to about 3 weeks, and it allows San Francisco to become eligible for potential reimbursement should there be a State or Federal Declaration to support this effort.

The declaration allows us to treat this crisis with speed and efficiency that is only achievable during an emergency. It orders the crisis operations to organize under the Incident Command System, which is a best practice of emergency management. This declaration reprioritizes City material and personnel resources to the Tenderloin and waives lengthy processes for contracting, zoning, and permitting so we can quickly act.

What will the Emergency Declaration help to accomplish?

The Emergency Declaration is essential to implementing key public health measures associated with the Tenderloin Emergency Initiative. The primary goal of the initiative is to invest City and non-city resources in the areas of service connection and support, disruption of the illegal drug market, and response to infrastructure and environmental needs quickly. The problem definition phase has already been completed, and ongoing assessments and engagement with stakeholders ensure that the City is efficient and effective in its coordinated response. This Emergency Declaration is to support operations and tactics to help the Tenderloin in the following ways:

- **Create a temporary Linkage Center** where people with substance use disorder can receive mental health and other human services. This center will be a services-focused location where people can voluntarily go to find respite from the streets and gain access to a wide variety of resources from the City and its partners.
- **Disrupt the illegal drug market**, which includes a combination of outreach, cleaning, and law and parking enforcement to disrupt the open drug dealing and associated violence in the neighborhood.
- **Expedite requests for cleaning and infrastructure service**, including cleaning, washing, trash pickup, streetlight fixes, pothole repairs, bus shelter maintenance, and other environmental improvements.

COMPARING TIMELINES CUTTING THE RED TAPE

