

Halton Police warn: Illegal drugs causing adverse reactions

By **TIM WHITNELL**
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Halton Regional Police has issued what it calls a serious warning about the use of illegal drugs following three incidents in which area residents suffered adverse side effects from using drugs.

Five victims have been taken to hospital in the past 10 days due to the use of illicit street drugs or medication, say police.

One incident involved three people.

Halton Regional Police issued the public safety alert regarding what it says was the misuse of prescription drugs (opiates) and illegal use of heroin and MDMA, also known as 'molly' or 'ecstasy.'

Halton police Det.-Sgt. Brad Murray, head of the service's Drug, Gun and Gang Unit, told *The Burlington Post* he can't release details about the ages or genders of the victims, their current condition or even whether anyone has died. He did confirm that at least one victim came from each municipality in

Halton — Burlington, Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills.

Murray added that police are seeing more people suffering severe reactions to legal and illegal drug use through the abuse or purposeful misuse of the product.

Investigations are ongoing and samples of the substances used by the victims have been sent to Health Canada for analysis, say police.

Police are strongly advising the public to seek medical attention immediately if they or someone they know experiences

symptoms of medical distress due to the use of the drugs in question or any other drugs.

If you have information regarding illegally trafficked controlled substances, police are asking the public to call 905-634-1831, ext. 8732, or email Drugs@haltonpolice.ca.

Anonymous tips can also be submitted to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.halton-crimestoppers.com.



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