

How to Respond to Substance Use-Related Seizures

CALL 9-1-1 if someone is having a seizure **OR** is having seizure-like movements

Signs a person may be having a substance use-related seizure:

1. Muscles suddenly tense up and the body becomes stiff
2. Body then begins to make quick, jerking movements (like tremors or shaking).

Substance use related seizures can be caused by several reasons, including withdrawal, drug poisoning, mixing substances, or having a medical condition like epilepsy.



Check that it's not an opioid poisoning first!

Check if they're breathing normally (12+ breaths per minute and no unusual sounds). If they are NOT breathing normally, follow SAVE ME steps.

DURING A SEIZURE:

1



Clear area and remove hazards to prevent injury.

2



Time the seizure (should last ~3 min).

3

Stay with them until the seizure ends.

Do not touch them or put anything in their mouth

AFTER A SEIZURE:

4

Place them in the recovery position on their side.



5

- Keep the area quiet and calm.
- Explain they may feel confused, exhausted.
- Encourage them to go with paramedics.

