



Southeast Missouri

Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission

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NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL TAKE - BACK INITIATIVE

The United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), in coordination with local communities, is promoting a National Take-Back Day scheduled for Saturday, September 25, 2010. DEA will provide supplies and disposal/destruction services to interested communities. This one-time event is an opportunity for our citizens to clear out their medicine cabinets of old, potentially dangerous medications.

This program is designed to handle the legal drugs, prescription or over-the-counter, that tend to accumulate in any household. It is not for illegal drugs.

Local governments, and specifically the local police and sheriffs, would be likely entities to sponsor such a program. If you would be interested in participating you should contact one of the contact people below.

Contact information for this program is:

Scott Flagg
Environment Specialist
Enforcement Section
Solid Waste Management Program
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
(573)526-3918
scott.flagg@dnr.mo.gov

S. Scott Collier
Diversion Program Manager
St. Louis Division
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
(314)538-4712
scott.x.collier@usdoj.gov

Additional information is included on the following pages.

The Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) recently met with Mr. Scott Collier, representative for the St. Louis Division of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). He notified program staff of a National Pharmaceutical Take-Back Initiative that will take place on September 25, 2010 from 10:00am - 2:00pm. The DEA is coordinating a joint endeavor with state and local law enforcement agencies focused on removing potentially dangerous controlled substances from homes throughout the country. The DEA will provide interested communities with supplies for the return program and also provide disposal/destruction of the collected pharmaceuticals.

It is hoped that this National Take-Back Day pharmaceutical return program will provide a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction. This one-day effort will bring national focus on the issue of pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse. The program provides an opportunity for law enforcement, drug abuse prevention and treatment agencies, and the business community to collaborate and establish a safe collection site for all Missourians, regardless of where they reside.

For your information and review, I have attached an email and fact sheet that Mr. Collier sent me. They describe in great detail what the program hopes to accomplish and the parameters DEA has defined to set up and run a return program. The SWMP encourages you to share this information with the municipalities, towns, and treatment centers in your regions, so that they may participate in this program.

Please direct any questions you may have to Mr. Collier. He has provided his contact information in the attached e-mail.

Thanks,

Scott Flagg
Environmental Specialist
Enforcement Section
Solid Waste Management Program
Fax: 573-526-3902
Phone: 573-526-3918

National Take Back Initiative

Introduction

On September 25, 2010, DEA will coordinate a collaborative effort with state and local law enforcement agencies focused on removing potentially dangerous controlled substances from our nation's medicine cabinets. A national take-back day will provide a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction. This one-day effort will bring national focus to the issue of pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse. The program provides an opportunity for law enforcement, prevention, treatment, and the business community to collaborate and establish a safe collection site for all Americans, regardless of where they reside.

Collection Day Protocols

On Saturday, September 25, 2010, state and local law enforcement agencies will host one or more collection sites at locations of their choosing. Locations should be selected that provide easy access and available parking. DEA will be assigning personnel to as many of these locations as we can once we determine the exact number and location of these events within our division.

Controlled, non-controlled, and over the counter substances may be collected. The general public is often unaware of the distinction in medication status.

Illicit substances such as marijuana or methamphetamine are not a part of this initiative and should not be placed in collection containers. If an individual attempts to surrender an illicit controlled substance, law enforcement personnel should handle such material as abandoned property in accordance with department policy.

Collection efforts may be combined with community drug awareness activities and involve the distribution of brochures and other information.

This program is anonymous and all efforts should be made to protect the anonymity of individuals disposing of medications. No questions or requests for identification should be made.

Participants may dispose of medication in its original container or by removing the medication from its container and disposing of it directly into the disposal box. If an original container is submitted, the individual should be encouraged to remove any identifying information from the prescription label.

No effort should be made by law enforcement personnel to count, inventory, or log medications.

All solid dosage pharmaceutical product and liquids in consumer containers may be accepted. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container. The depositor should ensure that the cap is tightly sealed to prevent leakage.

Used Intra-venous solutions, injectibles, and syringes should not be accepted due to potential hazard posed by blood-borne pathogens. No needles at all, please.

All participants must retain possession of their own medication during the surrender process. Law enforcement personnel should not handle the medications at any time.

A law enforcement officer must remain with the drug disposal box at all times. Collected pharmaceutical products should be handled as drug evidence with law enforcement custody to safe-guard the surrendered material.

DEA is establishing a website that citizens will use to find a take back location closest to their location. Once that site is up and running, we will ask you to go online and "register" your location with the website.

DEA will provide cardboard containers with plastic liners. If you need additional collection boxes, you are authorized to use a container approved by your department as part of its standard operating procedures.

At the conclusion of the event, a law enforcement officer will seal the drug disposal boxes in accordance with your agency's policy and procedure. It is recommended that the box be sealed with tamper-proof tape or an evidence sticker. Each box should be labeled as "Rx Drugs - DEA."

If you have a scale available to you at your office, we would appreciate it if you could weigh the box and simply mark the weight, to the nearest pound, on the box.

The drug collection boxes should then be returned to your police department and stored per your department's standard operating procedures for safe keeping and temporary storage, until they are turned over to DEA. We intend to begin collecting the containers the week of Sept 27-31 and will coordinate with you regarding the specific date.

DEA will bear the cost of destruction of these materials. If you currently have a disposal arrangement that you wish to utilize in lieu of DEA picking up these containers, you are free to do so. We want this to be as simple as possible for you.

Media Awareness – DEA will be providing local TV stations with a list of the locations being manned for this event in the week leading up to the event. If you wish to engage the media directly yourselves, you are encouraged to do so. Your departments are playing a major role in this event. We are simply attempting to coordinate these activities on a single day to raise awareness and help you provide this service to your communities.

Questions or concerns may be addressed to Scott Collier, (314) 538-4712 or scott.x.collier@usdoj.gov.