



## *Southeast Missouri*

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#### **NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL TAKE - BACK INITIATIVE**

For the second year in a row the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), in coordination with local communities, is sponsoring a National Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 30, 2011. DEA will provide collection containers, transportation, 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, expired, or potentially dangerous medications.

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

Local governments, in conjunction with their local police and sheriff departments, are likely candidates to conduct such a program. Law enforcement officers must be present throughout the collection process. If you would be interested in participating, please use the contact information below.

Contact information for this program is:

Scott Collier  
Diversion Program Manager  
St. Louis Division  
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration  
(314)538-4712  
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Additional information is included on the following pages:

## **National Take Back Initiative**

### Introduction

On April 30, 2011, the 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, April 30, 2011, 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, injectables, and syringes should not be accepted due to the 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 can 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 the 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 May 2 - 6 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](mailto:scott.x.collier@usdoj.gov).