



Newport Police Department

169 SW Coast Highway
Newport, Oregon 97365

NPD MEDIA RELEASE

04/08/2013 11:00 a.m.

Incident: National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

Location: Newport City Hall

Date/Time: April 27, 2013, 10:00am to 2:00pm

Details: On Saturday, April 27, 2013, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Newport Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will offer the public its sixth opportunity in three years to help prevent prescription abuse and theft. This may be accomplished by ridding your home of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to Newport City Hall at 169 SW Coast Highway. The service is free and anonymous; no questions asked.

Last September, Americans turned in 244 tons of prescription drugs at more than 5,200 sites operated by the DEA and its thousands of state and local law enforcement partners. In its five previous Take Back events, the DEA and its partners took in more than two million pounds—a thousand tons—of pills.

Locally, drugs collected from the Newport Police Department disposal site in 2010 weighed 356 pounds; in 2011, the total drugs collected for disposal weighed 396 pounds; in 2012, the total drugs collected for disposal weighed 373 pounds.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdose due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—pose potential safety and health hazards.

Four days after the first event, Congress passed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, which amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow an “ultimate user” of controlled substance medications to dispose of them by delivering them to entities authorized by the Attorney General to accept

them. The Act also allows the Attorney General to authorize long-term care facilities to dispose of their residents' controlled substances in certain instances. The DEA is drafting regulations to implement the Act. Until new regulations are in place, local law enforcement agencies, like the Newport Police Department, and the DEA will continue to hold prescription drug take-back events every few months.

The Newport Police Department encourages people with unused or unwanted drugs of any kind to utilize this important service. Deposit prescription or over-the-counter drugs intended for humans or animals in the pharmaceutical drop-box at their local Police Department. The Toledo and the Lincoln City Police Departments also have collection boxes in their lobbies

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Information Released By: **Lt. Jason Malloy, 541-574-3348**