



Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

For Immediate Release
Contact: Gayle Perez 719 924 5471
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Drug Take Back Event Scheduled for Saturday in Pueblo County

Pueblo, CO: Do you have outdated or unwanted prescription drugs in your home? Have you been wanting to dispose of them but weren't sure how to do so safely? Then the annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day scheduled for Saturday, October 26, 2019, is an event you won't want to miss.

Pueblo County residents will have the opportunity to drop off any unwanted, unused or expired prescription drugs at several locations from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In addition to prescription medications, individuals will be able to drop off vaping pens without batteries and cartridges at this year's Take Back event. Pens with batteries will not be accepted as they are considered a fire hazard. All items are accepted anonymously and will be disposed of in a safe manner. There is no charge for the service.

The National Prescription Drug Take Back was started by the Drug Enforcement Administration as a way to get unused and outdated drugs out of homes so they cannot be misused or abused. Studies show that many abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from home medicine cabinets. Additionally, many individuals do not know how to properly dispose of unused medicines, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away, both potential safety and health hazards. The DEA, through discussions with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, has determined that vaping pens without the internal batteries are considered household hazard waste, which is the same designation given to prescription drugs. The DEA started the Drug Take Back program to provide a safe, convenient and responsible way to dispose of unwanted medications.

Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor strongly supports the Drug Take Back program as its aim is to prevent unused prescription drugs from getting into hands children. "If we can prevent one overdose or an accidental ingestion, we win by working this event."

Pueblo County Sheriff's deputies will be at the following locations on Saturday, to collect unwanted medications: Pueblo County Sheriff's Office West Sub-Station, 320 Joe Martinez Blvd., Pueblo West; Pueblo Rural Fire Station, 29912 U.S. Highway 50 E (between Wago Drive and 30th Lane) and Valley Health Mart Pharmacy, 4493 Bent Brothers Blvd., Colorado City.

Items that cannot be accepted are needles and sharps, mercury thermometers, oxygen containers, chemotherapy/radioactive substances, pressurized canisters and illicit drugs.

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