

Sheriff



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PRESCRIPTION PILL TAKEBACK NETS NEARLY 100 POUNDS IN OKALOOSA



On Saturday, October 29, 2011, Investigators from the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and Niceville Police Department participated in another DEA Sponsored National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. This event provides a venue for persons who want to dispose of unwanted and unused or expired prescription drugs. In total, approximately 100 pounds of prescription drugs were collected by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and Niceville Police Department. Pill Take Back collections points were located at the Wal-Mart stores in Crestview, Destin, Fort Walton Beach and Niceville. Special Thanks goes out to Wal-Mart for allowing the use of their locations as collection points.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. More than seven million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs, according to the 2009 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Each day, approximately, 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet.

DEA in conjunction with state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the United States conducted National Prescription Drug Take Back Days on Saturday, September 25, 2010 and April 25, 2011. Nearly, 4,000 state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the nation participated in these events, collecting more than 309 tons of pills.

Four days after last fall's Take-Back Day, Congress passed legislation amending the Controlled Substances Act to allow the DEA to develop a process for people to safely dispose of their prescription drugs. DEA immediately began developing this process after President Obama signed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010 on October 12. Until that process is complete, however, DEA will continue to hold Take Back Days every six months.

Just as a reminder, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has a year round "Pill Take Back" Program which allows citizens of Okaloosa County to bring their unwanted/unused or expired medication to the District Offices to be turned over to law enforcement for disposal.

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The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the
Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"