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NEWS RELEASE

Drop off bad medicine, good food April 24 in Three Springs

Durango, CO: Do you have unused or expired prescription medications? Dispose of them safely during Drug Take Back Day, hosted by the Durango Police Department, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 24 at the Police Substation, 545 Wilson Gulch Drive in Three Springs.

Participants are also encouraged to bring food donations for Manna Soup Kitchen. Useful items include canned goods (fruits, vegetables, meats and meals) and packaged meals (ramen, pasta, oatmeal, cereal, granola, etc). Personal hygiene products are also very helpful!

The police department will adhere to local COVID-19 guidelines and regulations to maintain the safety of participants and police department employees. Please remain in your vehicle and hand medications to employees. Wear a face mask when pulling up to hand off medications.

The U.S. has seen an increase in overdose deaths during the pandemic, with 83,544 Americans overdosing during the 12-month period ending July 1, 2020 – the most ever recorded in a 12-month period, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The increase appeared to begin prior to the COVID-19 health emergency but accelerated significantly during the first months of the pandemic.

Studies indicate most of the prescription drugs that are abused come from family and friends, including from home medicine cabinets, so clearing out unused medicine is essential.

"An important role of a police department is to promote safety and better quality of life for the community it serves," Sergeant Tim Dixon said. "Participating in the Drug Take Back is an effective way for the Durango Police Department to partner with our community to reduce instances of poisoning, overdose or addiction that could result from the presence of unwanted prescription drugs in the home."

Tablets, capsules, patches and other solid forms of prescription drugs will be accepted during Drug Take Back Day. Liquids (including intravenous solutions), syringes and other sharps, and illegal drugs will not be accepted.
At its last Take Back Day in October, DEA and agencies nationally collected close to 500 tons of unwanted medications, a record amount. Durango Police Department collected 87 pounds of medications last October, up from just 12 pounds the previous year.

Helping people dispose of potentially harmful prescription drugs is just one way DEA is working to reduce addiction and stem overdose deaths. Learn more at deatakeback.com or call 800-882-9539.

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