



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Annual Prescription Drug Takeback Event, April 28th!

On Saturday, April 28th from 8:00am to 1:00pm Inyo County will be hosting the annual Prescription Drug Takeback event. This event gives Inyo County residents the opportunity to rid their homes of potentially dangerous, expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. You can bring medications for disposal at any of the three collection sites. The service is free, and anonymous – no questions asked!

- **Bishop:** outside Kmart, 1200 N. Main Street
- **Lone Pine:** outside McDonalds, 601 S. Main Street
- **Tecopa:** Community Center, 400 Tecopa Hot Springs Road

“Most of us have prescriptions in our medicine cabinet that are out of date, half used, or simply unwanted; this is a great opportunity to dispose of medications in a safe and anonymous way,” stated Sheriff Bill Lutze. “In the past several years residents have easily turned in well over a hundred pounds of unwanted prescriptions.”

The service is in accordance with the Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) National Drug Takeback Initiative and addresses both public safety as well as public health issues. [Opioid abuse](#) has been particularly difficult to combat; many of the opioid overdoses are directly related to prescribed medications.

Chief Ted Stec offered the following suggestion: “Consider using the Prescription Drug Takeback event as an annual opportunity to clean out your medicine cabinet; narcotic pain killers as well as other prescribed medications can be very tempting for teens to experiment with. This event offers local residents a means to make your home safer by disposing of unwanted medication in an approved manner.”

As you are preparing for the event please keep the following in mind for disposal:

You CAN submit:

- *Controlled substance medication
- *Non-controlled substance medication
- *Over the counter medication
- *Medication samples
- *Medicated ointments, creams, and lotions
- *Inhalers

You CAN’T submit

- *Sharps, needles, lancets, or syringes
- *Any mercury or cadmium products (thermometers or batteries)
- *Medical waste (IV bags, used bandages, gowns, bio-hazard items)
- *Aerosol Cans
- *Chemicals or disinfectants such as hydrogen peroxide
- *Personal care items such as shampoo

Agencies participating include: Inyo County Sheriff’s Office, Inyo County Probation Department, Inyo County District Attorney, Inyo County Health and Human Services, Bishop Police Department, and Major Investigation and Narcotics Team (MINT).

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