



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

From: Corporal Wendy McGinnis
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Re: DEA and HCSO Work Together For the 3rd Drug Take Back Initiative

Date: October 25, 2011

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office is participating in the DEA statewide "Drug Take Back Event." The Drug Take Back Initiative will occur this Saturday, October 29, 2011, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, at the Wal-Mart located at 13300 Cortez Blvd. in Brooksville.

The Drug Take Back Initiative provides residents in the State of Florida an opportunity to drop off any unwanted or unused prescription drugs at various locations throughout the state. Bringing any unwanted prescription medication to a designated site is one way to help keep our children and our environment safe.

Since 2008 overdose deaths have become Hernando County's leading killer, approximately 1 death per week in Hernando County:

2008 – 45 Overdose Deaths
2009 – 47 Overdose Deaths
2010 – 56 Overdose Deaths
2011-41 (January to September*)

*There are still at least 5 Death Cases still waiting results from the Medical Examiners Office.

"Illegal possession of prescription medication has become a huge issue across our country" said Sheriff Al Nienhuis. "When prescription medication falls into the wrong hands, the consequences can be life changing and sometime deadly. I strongly encourage anyone who has any unwanted prescription medication to participate in this worthy operation."

The Hernando County Utilities Department posted the following information on their website:

New to the Household Hazardous Waste Program is our "Unwanted Medication Disposal Program". Due to recent findings reported across the United States, it has been shown that improper disposal of unwanted medications, has adverse effects on the environment.

Improper disposal methods include flushing them down the toilet, and placing them in the landfill. In light of these reports the Household Hazardous Waste Program has started an "Unwanted Medication" disposal program.

Residents must pour their own medication into a funnel, and take the empty medication bottles with them.

Residents are allowed to bring their unwanted medications to the any of the three, following Solid Waste & Recycling locations:

Northwest Solid Waste Facility
14450 Landfill Rd
Brooksville, FL 34614

West Hernando Convenience Center
2525 Osowaw Blvd
Spring Hill, FL 34607

East Hernando Convenience Center
33070 Cortez Blvd
Ridge Manor, FL 33523