



MEDIA RELEASE

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NATIONAL TAKE-BACK INITIATIVE

Contact person: John W. Hough, Chief of Police

Contact telephone number: 720-763-3000

On October 26, 2013, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, the Edgewater Police Department, in concert with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), will participate in the National Take-Back Initiative to collect and destroy prescription medications that are either no longer needed by residents or outdated. The NTBI will be held in conjunction with the City's Shred-a-Thon event. The point of collection for the drugs will be at City Hall. There will be a uniformed Police Officer posted at the collection site to ensure the security of the discarded drugs.

There are some very interesting, and disturbing facts that generated this NTBI. In 2011, nearly twice as many people in Colorado died from poisoning due to opioid analgesics such as morphine, codeine, oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone and fentanyl (304) than from drunk-driving related traffic collisions (161). Colorado had the second-worst pain pill abuse in the United States according to a 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. During two NTBI events in 2012, residents of Colorado turned in more than 30,000 pounds of unused medication.

What is most disturbing is that a 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Study conducted in Colorado revealed that 29.2% of 12th grade students had taken a prescription medication without a doctor's prescription at least once in their relatively short lifetime. The national average was 25.6%. And many teenagers feel that prescription drugs are safer to use than street drugs because they are prescribed by a physician. According to the teens, prescription drugs are easier to obtain than beer because prescription medications are easily obtained from friends and family medicine cabinets.

Please do your part and help us keep our community safer for everyone by turning in your prescription medications that are no longer needed or outdated.