



Yuma County Sheriff's Office

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DEA National Prescription Take-Back Day September 26, 2015

Location of Incident: YCSO Foothills Substation, 13190 E. South Frontage Road - Yuma, AZ

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office will be participating in the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) National Prescription Take-Back Day on **Saturday, September 26, 2015** from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is the DEA's tenth take-back event in five years, providing the public the opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Medications for disposal can be dropped off at the YCSO Foothills Substation at 13190 E. South Frontage Road (The DEA cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps; only pills or patches). This service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last September, Americans turned in 309 tons (over 617,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at nearly 5,500 sites operated by the DEA and more than 4,000 of its state and local law enforcement partners. When those results are combined with what was collected in its eight previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in over 4.8 million pounds—more than 2,400 tons—of pills.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

If you miss this event, the Yuma County Sheriff's Office Main Office and Foothills Substation serve as full-time drop-off locations. For more information regarding the YCSO Prescription Drug Take-Back Program, please visit http://yumacountysheriff.org/services-drug_disposal.html.

Information Released By: Alfonso Zavala, Public Information Officer