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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OC Sheriff's Department and DEA Host National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

SANTA ANA, Calif. – (October 18, 2013) – The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) along with the Orange County Sheriff's Department has scheduled another National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day which will take place on Saturday, October 26, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. rain or shine. This event will give the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous, expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. This service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. Below is a list of collection sites:

OCSD South Sub-Station	11 Journey, Aliso Viejo, 92656
Laguna Hills City Hall	24035 El Toro Road, Laguna Hills
Laguna Niguel City Hall	30111 Crown Valley Parkway, Laguna Niguel
Lake Forest City Hall	25550 Commercentre, Lake Forest
Mission Viejo City Hall	200 Civic Center, Mission Viejo
Rossmoor Rush Park	3021 Blume Drive, Rossmoor
San Clemente Police Services	100 Avenida Presidio, San Clemente
San Juan Capistrano City Hall	32400 Paseo Adelanto, San Juan Capistrano
Yorba Linda Community Center	4501 Casa Loma Avenue, Yorba Linda

On the last "Take Back Day" on April 27, 2013, 742,497 pounds of prescription medications were collected from members of the public at more than 5,829 locations manned by 4,312 state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies that partnered with DEA on the event. When added to the collections from DEA's previous five Take-Back events, more than 2.8 million pounds of prescription medications have been removed from circulation.

According to the 2011 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), twice as many Americans regularly abused prescription drugs than the number of those who regularly used cocaine, hallucinogens, heroin, and inhalants *combined*. That same study revealed more than 70 percent of people abusing prescription pain relievers got them through friends or relatives, a statistic that includes raiding the family medicine cabinet.

Last year, illegal drugs were the cause of 20 percent of Orange County's 330 overdose incidents. Prescription drugs were involved in 57 percent of the cases, 188 deaths. The report detailed all death investigations by the coroner's office for 2012.

This prescription drug epidemic is especially growing in Orange County, and takes an Orange County life every two days. Not only is the death count rising from drug overdose, but it has now exceeded deaths by car crashes, as reported by the Centers for Disease Control. This is a great opportunity for those who missed the previous events, or who have subsequently accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs, to safely dispose of those medications.

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