



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2019

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Participate in National Prescription Drug Take Back Event April 27

On Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Highlands Ranch Metro District, Centennial Water and Sanitation District and Douglas County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) will give the public its 17th opportunity in nine years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs.

Bring drugs for disposal to the DCSO Highlands Ranch Substation at 9250 Zotos Dr., or King Soopers at 4000 Red Cedar Dr., Highlands Ranch. Sites cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps, only pills and patches. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last fall Americans turned in nearly 460 tons, more than 900,000 pounds, of prescription drugs at more than 5,800 locations nationwide. Overall, in its 16 previous Take Back events, DEA reports that almost 11 million pounds—nearly 5,500 tons—of pills have been taken in for proper disposal.

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. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows year after year the majority of misused and abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including someone else's medication being stolen 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 – pose potential safety and health hazards.

For more information about the National Prescription Drug Take Back day, visit dcsheriff.net or takebackdea.dea.gov.

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Founded in 1981 as the local government in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, the Metro District provides a variety of municipal services to this planned community of 98,000 people. Learn more about the Metro District at www.highlandsranch.org.