



PRESS RELEASE

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TOMBALL POLICE DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

GOT DRUGS? Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal on October 29th at Tomball City Hall.

On Saturday, October 29th, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., DEA, Tomball Police Department and Northwest EMS will set up a site at City of Tomball City Hall, 401 Market Street, where the public can bring unused, unwanted or expired prescription drugs for safe disposal, no questions asked, and at no cost to them. This is an opportunity to safely empty out your medicine cabinet of drugs you don't need or have expired, including prescription drugs that contain controlled substances.

What are controlled substances?

About 1 in 8 prescription drugs contain active ingredients that the federal government (DEA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including the Food and Drug Administration) limits in distribution and handles in a special, secure manner. The determination of which drugs need such handling is based on criteria in the Federal Controlled Substances Act, including a drug's medical usefulness and its potential for abuse and creating dependence. Different levels of control are exerted on different drugs based on those criteria. These drugs include narcotics (opiates) like Vicodin, Percocet, OxyContin, and codeine cough syrup; stimulants like Adderall, Ritalin, and Dexedrine; and sedatives and tranquilizers like Valium, Xanax, and Ambien.

What prompted DEA to hold a take-back day?

DEA is charged with protecting the public's health and safety when it comes to controlled substances. Prescription drugs containing controlled substances are being misused and abused at alarming rates in America today, leading to cases of accidental poisoning, overdose and addiction, making them a public safety issue. A factor contributing to their increased usage is their availability in the home medicine cabinet. In many cases, medicines containing controlled substances remain in the home medicine cabinet long after therapy has been completed, thus making these drugs easily accessible to others who would misuse or abuse them.

The Controlled Substances Act provides limited options for consumers to legally dispose of their old medicines. At this time, most communities do not routinely offer consumers the opportunity to properly dispose of these medicines. As a result, many people keep the drugs because they do not know how to dispose of them. So, DEA is holding this take-back day to help consumers clean out their medicine cabinets of these old, unwanted, potentially harmful drugs.

If you have any questions please refer to information www.justice.gov/dea.