

KSP will partner with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) on October 29, 2011 in a collaborative effort to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from home medicine cabinets. Collection activities will take place from 10:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. on Oct. 29th at every KSP Post across the state.

KSP has participated in the two previous 'Take Back' days collecting over 700 pounds of prescription medication. During the last two initiatives the DEA Office of Diversion Control in Detroit reports that Kentucky collected 7,778 pounds of prescription medications statewide from all collection sites.

Nationally, the previous 'Take Back' initiatives have accounted for 309 tons of unused/unwanted prescription medications being collected.

KSP Commissioner Rodney Brewer encouraged citizens to take advantage of this opportunity to rid their home of expired or unwanted prescription medications.

"Prescription Drug abuse is the Nation's fastest-growing drug problem and Kentucky has been identified as a hot spot for this type of activity," says Brewer. "Last year, 70 percent of controlled substances that were brought into the 'Take Back' program were identified as narcotic/pain killers."

"The unique aspect of this initiative is that it is free and anonymous. No requests for identification will be made to anyone bringing medications in to KSP Posts," adds Brewer.

Lt. David Jude, spokesperson for KSP, advised that the program is designed to be easy for citizens and offered the following tips for those interested in participating:

- Participants may dispose of medication in its original container or by removing the medication from its container and disposing of it directly into the disposal box.

- All solid dosage pharmaceutical product and liquids in consumer containers may be accepted. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container. The depositor should ensure that the cap is tightly sealed to prevent leakage.

- Intra-venous solutions, injectibles, and syringes will not be accepted due to potential hazard posed by blood-borne pathogens.

- Illicit substances such as marijuana or methamphetamine are not a part of this initiative and should not be placed in collection containers.

“This year’s National ‘Take Back’ Event will also coincide with DEA’s Red Ribbon Week, which is a week-long initiative to raise awareness of drug use and the problems related to drugs facing our country,” says Jude.

“This effort symbolizes KSP’s commitment to halting the disturbing rise in addiction caused by the misuse and abuse of unwanted prescription drugs and serves as another means of keeping drugs out of the hands of our young people,” adds Jude.

Jude advised that all KSP Post locations and contact numbers can be found on the agency website at www.kentuckystatepolice.org or by calling 502-782-1780.