



SALEM POLICE DEPT. NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – April 15, 2011

SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL EVENT

As part of a collective effort with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Salem Police Department will participate in the “National Take Back” initiative to remove potentially dangerous pharmaceutical and over the counter substances from our community’s medicine cabinets. The one-day national campaign will take place on Saturday, April 30, on the back lot of the Salem Police Department, on Burwell St.

“The purpose of this initiative is to provide a venue for people to anonymously dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs,” says Salem Police Chief Jeff Dudley. “The event also is an opportunity for the public to help prevent pill abuse and theft in the Salem community by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous, expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs in a safe and secure manner.”

Citizens will be able to drive up to the garage bay door area at the Salem Police Department and get rid of a variety of medications, however, intravenous solutions, any medicine that is injected and syringes will not be accepted due to the potential safety hazard.

“We really hope that this event increases public awareness of what has become a problem across the entire Roanoke Valley, the Commonwealth and the nation,” says Dudley.

Each day, approximately, 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America, yet research shows that many Americans are not aware of just how serious the problem has become. In 2008, more than 2.1 million teens ages 12 to 17 admitted to using prescription drugs to get high.

“This Initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health concern,” says Dudley. “These studies also show that a majority of these abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends and many come right out of the home medicine cabinet”

This is an anonymous program that protects the identity of the individual disposing of medications. No questions or requests for identification will be made. It is simply a great opportunity for those who have accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs, to safely dispose of them.

“National Take Back Day”
SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT
Saturday April 30
10am – 2pm

Contact:

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