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RELEASED BY: Paula M. Felipe, Crime Prevention Coordinator
CONTACT #  : 530-538-7822

DRUG TAKE-BACK CAMPAIGN NETS MORE THAN 500 POUNDS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN BUTTE COUNTY

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. — More than 500 pounds of prescription drugs were collected in Butte County during the National Drug Take-back event on Saturday, April 27, 2013.

There were a total of 13 boxes of prescription drugs turned in from the 4 collection sites in Butte County and they weighed a total of 528.5 LB.

Residents were encouraged to clean out their medicine cabinets and drop off their unwanted or expired prescription drugs at collection sites throughout the County as well as across the Nation. Law enforcement officials took possession of these prescription drugs and properly disposed of them.

The goals of this campaign include preventing children and/or grandchildren from having access to dangerous prescription drugs and to protect the environment from contamination. Keith Krampitz, who is a Meth Strike Force member and a former Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force commander, said it was a successful campaign. “We are seeing a variety of different pain meds brought in, among other drugs. The community has come out in support of this drug takeback, and it’s good to know these meds won’t pose a hazard to children anymore,” Krampitz said.
Special thanks to Oroville Hospital, Enloe Medical Center, Biggs-Gridley Hospital, and Immediate Care Medical Center in Paradise and their staffs for supporting this project.

At the Oroville Hospital’s Walk-in Clinic (Comp Care), 60 pounds of prescription drugs were collected.

At the Chico Enloe Medical Center drop-off site, a whopping 321.1 pounds of prescription drugs were collected.

In Gridley, 61.4 pounds of pills were dropped off at the Biggs-Gridley Hospital collection site.

And, the Immediate Care Medical Center in Paradise received a total of 86 pounds of prescription drugs at their collection site.

Ambien, Vicodin, Oxycontin, Naproxen; Flexeril; Ultram; Temazepam, Acetaminophen-hydrocodone; hydroxyzine-hydrochloride; Tramadol; Dexamethasone; Morphine sulfate; Codeine; Paroxetine; Concerta; Farfarin; Cefaclor; Trilipix; Hydrochlorothiazide; Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Xanax, Ketorolac-Tromethamine; Morphine; Lithium; hydrochlorothiazide; Levothyroxine; Lisinopril; Warfarin; Sucralfate; Amiodarone-Hydrochloride; Paroxetine; and Ritalin were among the dropped-off drugs. The campaign did not accept any needles.

National studies indicate that the abuse of prescription and over the counter drugs to get high is a growing concern among teens. In the U.S., more young people age 12-17 abuse prescription drugs than any illicit drug except marijuana. This is more than cocaine, heroin or methamphetamine combined.

This campaign was sponsored by the U. S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); Butte County Sheriff’s Office, local Police Departments, Butte County Meth Strike Force; Butte County Sheriff’s STARS volunteers; local hospitals; and Butte County Public Health.

To find updated amounts of prescription drugs collected across the state and nation, see: WWW.DEA.GOV

For more information, contact:
Paula Felipe, Crime Prevention Coordinator
Butte County Sheriff’s Office
530-538-7822
Email: pfelipe@buttecounty.net