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## **HEALTHY HERRIMAN INITIATES DRUG DISPOSAL PROGRAM**

Prescription drug disposal program expands to Herriman City

AUGUST 20, 2007: Residents in Herriman City no longer need to worry about the safe disposal of their unused or expired prescription drugs thanks to the efforts of Herriman City, the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office, and the "Healthy Herriman" committee, sponsored by Intermountain Healthcare.

Residents may drop off prescription or over-the-counter medications in the collection box in the lobby of the Sheriff's Herriman substation, located at 13272 South 5600 West. The medications will be deposited in the locked collection box, then later retrieved by the Sheriff's Office and incinerated. Residents will not be required to provide personal information or pay for the disposal service, though the drop box is intended for non-commercial individual use only.

The prescription drug disposal program, modeled after a similar program in Salt Lake City, will provide a safe, legal and environmentally correct drug disposal method for citizens. Safe disposal ensures water quality, keeps drugs out of the hands of criminals and lowers the potential for accidental overdoses by children or the elderly.

Former disposal methods of flushing medications into sewer systems are now thought to be a contributing factor in water contamination. Disposal through garbage collection may still result in these compounds leaching into the landfill and the eventual possibility of impacting ground water. Disposal of prescription and over-the-counter medications by incineration is preferable to sewer and garbage disposal.

Residents are encouraged not to keep expired or unused medications as emergency preparedness storage. After expiration, pharmaceutical compounds can deteriorate, lose effectiveness, and may even be harmful. Storing may also create a danger for children through accidental or intentional usage.

Herriman Sherriff's Captain Armand Glick hopes the program will aid in preventing illegal use of prescription drugs.

"In law enforcement we are noticing a trend away from the traditional gateway drugs of alcohol and tobacco to prescription medications," Glick said. "We are seeing increasing numbers of youth raid their parent's medicine cabinet for prescription drugs. These drugs are handed out at parties and exchanged with others and the youth participate in experimenting with their use."

Part of the problem, Glick said, is prescription drug abuse is perceived as "less serious" than either tobacco and alcohol use or illegal drug use because prescription drugs are originally obtained legally. When their parents' medicine cabinet is empty, young people search emergency storage supplies, steal from the medicine cabinets in the homes of their friends or purchase these medications from other teens. Eventually the cost of illegally purchasing these drugs off the street leads to experimentation and addiction to less expensive drugs such as Heroin or Methamphetamine. The end result can be devastating.

"Our advice to parents," Glick said, "is to never keep any prescription pain medication in your home that is no longer needed. Any potential benefits of doing so are simply not worth the risk."

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For more information about this topic, please contact either of the Healthy Herriman Co-Chairs. To schedule an interview with Captain Armand Glick, please call 801/302-2080 or email [AGlick@slco.org](mailto:AGlick@slco.org).