Dispose of Drugs Safely – February 2012
Joe Hoy, Eagle County Sheriff

Each year hundreds of Coloradans die from drug abuse. A large number of these deaths are not attributed to illegal drugs purchased from drug dealers or on the street corner, but from drugs commonly found in household medicine cabinets.

While prescription drugs have many legitimate purposes and provide medical relief for millions, the ongoing abuse of these potent and sometimes lethal drugs has become a major issue facing our communities today.

Our youth in particular are abusing prescriptions drugs at an astonishing rate. According to the Colorado Division of Behavioral Health statistics, adults younger than 25 make up a large percentage of admissions to Colorado drug treatment facilities, due to prescription drug abuse.

That is why the Eagle County Sheriff's Office, along with other local law enforcement agencies, will be participating in what has become one of the most successful ways to combat prescription drug abuse. National Drug Take-Back day is a program that is sponsored by the U.S. Justice Department, the DEA and local law enforcement agencies throughout the nation.

During these National Drug Take-Back events, law enforcement agencies throughout Colorado have taken thousands of pounds of controlled prescription drugs off the streets of Colorado. In Eagle County alone we have collected several hundred pounds of prescription drugs during the past several years.

The prescription drugs collected during these Take-Back events are disposed of properly, preventing them from contaminating water sources, or finding their way back on the streets and into the hands of abusers or naive youth.

Please join us on Saturday, April 28, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in this statewide effort to make our communities safer. Locations for drop-off sites will be announced soon.