



Alaska Department of Health and Social Services  
Alaska State Troopers  
Alaska Safe Medicine Alliance

## JOINT MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 28, 2011

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### **Safe medication disposal event this Saturday**

*Unsafe medication storage, disposal linked to drug abuse, accidents, water contamination*

ANCHORAGE — Alaskans are invited to drop off medications for free, safe disposal Saturday, April 30, at locations statewide. Local police and Alaska State Troopers will supervise the sites.

Alaska's safe disposal event is part of a nationwide annual event coordinated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, with thousands of sites. The free public event seeks to prevent pill abuse and theft, as well as environmental damage to our waterways.

Alaska's prescription drug abuse rates have increased seven-fold since 2005. Leftover medications in our homes contribute to child poisonings and potentially fatal recreational or accidental misuse.

**WHAT:** The public is invited to drop off old or unwanted prescriptions, including pet medications, for free, safe disposal.

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, April 30, 2011

**WHERE:** 25 locations statewide, including Trooper posts, and some Fred Meyer parking lots. To find the nearest site, follow the "Got drugs?" link at [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov).

**WHY:**

- Prevent accidental poisonings, prescription drug abuse and related crime.
- Protect drinking water and aquatic ecosystems from unsafe disposal, such as flushing old medications, which releases potent chemicals in our waterways.

**WHO:** Sponsors: Alaska Safe Medicine Alliance and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and the Alaska State Troopers. For details, see [www.akeela.org/rx](http://www.akeela.org/rx) or [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov).

*Marti Pausback at Akeela Inc. is the coordinator for the Alaska Safe Medicine Alliance, an offshoot of the Senior Behavioral Health Coalition; Jeff Galliher is the media coordinator for the event.*

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