

OPERATION MEDICINE DROP in Polk County on April 30th, 2016, was a success.

Prescription drug take-back events across the state can help you safely destroy old drugs to keep them from falling into the wrong hands.

Local law enforcement in North Carolina partners with Safe Kids North Carolina and the Drug Enforcement Administration to collect and safely destroy these drugs during Operation Medicine Drop.

Medications are the leading cause of child poisoning, according to Safe Kids, a non-profit organization that helps parents and caregivers prevent childhood injuries. Environmental experts say that flushing medicines down the toilet contaminates water supplies and hurts aquatic life.

According to DEA, medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to misuse and abuse, and a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

The Columbus Police Department participated, and conducted an event that day at CVS Pharmacy in Columbus, NC collecting 23 pounds of medication. The Tryon Police Department collected 3,078 doses at the Tryon Fire Department. Polk County Sheriff's Office collected a combined total of 15,095 doses at Tryon Estates, Green Creek Fire Department, Sunnyview Fire Department and Saluda Fire Department.

The Polk County Law Enforcement Agencies, Polk Substance Abuse Coalition and Operation Medicine Drop remind parents and caregivers to:

- Keep medicines locked and out of the reach of children.
- Always read labels, follow directions, and give medicines to children based on their weights and ages. Also, only use the dispensers packaged with children's medications to ensure proper dosage.
- Avoid taking medicines in front of children.
- If poisoning is suspected and a child is choking, collapses, can't breathe, or is having a seizure, call 911 immediately.
- If there are questions regarding the toxicity of a medication, contact the Carolinas Poison Center at 1-(800)-222-1222 or visit the website at <http://www.poisonexpertsoncall.org/>.

Polk Substance Abuse Coalition would like to thank all the law enforcement officers who worked this event.

Polk County Sheriff's Office: Lowell Griffin and Judd Lawter at Saluda Fire Department

Polk County Sheriff's Office: Todd Arwood and Cole Weicker at Sunnyview Fire Department

Polk County Sheriff's Office: Jerad McFalls and Brian Atkins at Green Creek Fire Department.

Tryon Police Department: Tim Wright, Bill Smith and Jeff Ramsey at Tryon Fire Department.

Columbus Police Department: Kelly Hamby, Cody Gordon and Scott Hamby at CVS Pharmacy in

Columbus, NC.

DEA Special Agent Mike Althoff.