

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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International Prescription Overdose Awareness Day

The Red Rock SPF-PFS Program would like the community to be aware of the upcoming International Prescription (Rx) Overdose Awareness Day on Wednesday, August 31, 2016. The International Rx Overdose Awareness Day was started by the Salvation Army in Australia in 2001 to mourn publicly the loss of loved ones without feeling the guilt or shame.

There are a number of events planned across the United States, in addition to Australia, Canada and England. You can find them listed at <http://www.overdoseday.com/events/>.

According to Center for Disease Control, “Drug overdose was responsible for 41,340 deaths in the US in 2011. US overdose deaths have increased for 12 successive years. In 2011 and for the fifth year in a row, the number of US citizens whose deaths were drug-related exceeded the number of fatalities in road traffic accidents (33,561). Almost five people per hour died of overdose in the US in 2011.”

In honor of International Rx Overdose Awareness Day, the silver badge is the universal symbol of awareness of overdose and its effects. Wearing silver can signify the loss of someone cherished or demonstrate support to those bearing a burden of grief.

One way to help decrease prescription overdose is to properly dispose of your unwanted or expired medications through the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) drop boxes. In Grady County the drop boxes are located at the following locations:

- **Grady County Sheriff's Office**
302 N. 3rd
Chickasha, Oklahoma 73018
405-222-1000
- **Chickasha Police Department**
2001 Iowa Ave.
Chickasha, Oklahoma 73018
405-222-6050

International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) is a global event held on August 31st each year and aims to raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of a drug-related death. It also acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have met with death or permanent injury as a result of drug overdose.

Overdose Day spreads the message that the tragedy of overdose death is preventable.

Red Rock SPF-PFS's primary focus is to serve as a prevention community liaison. Red Rock SPF-PFS educates and informs communities through multiple strategies including community based services, environmental strategies, early recognition, and referral. We take the proactive approach in reducing substance abuse among communities. The SPF-PFS project is funded by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), CSAP (Center for Substance Abuse Prevention) and the ODMHSAS. For more information please visit www.redrockrpc.com or contact the Red Rock SPF-PFS Coordinator at (405)-422-8872.