

July 12, 2018

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**For questions or more information please contact:**

Julia Cochran  
Red Rock BHS  
1501 W. Commerce  
Yukon, OK 73099  
405-422-8872  
juliac@red-rock.com

Safe Disposal of Unused or Expired Prescription Medicines

Prescription drug abuse is Oklahoma's fastest growing drug problem and according to Oklahoma's Injury Prevention Service, from 2012-2016, Canadian County had 35 unintentional deaths related to prescription painkillers (opioids).

Our prevention initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards

One way to be a part of the solution is disposing of prescription drugs properly. The Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (OBNDD) has many drop off boxes for people to securely and safely dispose of any unused, unwanted, or expired prescription drugs. According to Mark Woodward with OBN, *"Prescription drug abuse is a growing epidemic in Oklahoma. It's unnecessary and unsafe to leave outdated drugs in the house. Old, expired medications left in the home can be targeted by users. Teenagers also target their parent's current or expired prescription drugs to abuse, trade or sell in order to obtain alcohol, marijuana or other drugs."*

The following two locations in Canadian County are at:

**Canadian County  
Sheriff's Office**

208 W. Rodgers  
El Reno, OK 73036  
405-262-3434  
(Open 24/7)

**Mustang Police  
Department**

650 E. State Highway 152  
Mustang, OK 73064  
405-376-2488  
(Open 24/7)

**Piedmont Police  
Department**

400 Edmond Road N.W.  
Piedmont, OK 73078  
405-373-1334

(Open Monday-Friday: 8-5  
Closed Holidays and Weekends)

**Yukon Police  
Department**

100 S. Ranchwood Blvd.  
Yukon, OK 73099  
405-354-1711  
(Open 24/7)

What can you dispose and what are the benefits?

- Any old, unwanted, or expired prescription drugs.
- NO syringes, chemicals, or inhalers.
- Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) partners with an Oklahoma based company destroys unused prescriptions and turns it into green energy.
- Appropriate disposal reduces the amount of prescription drug residue out of our water sources.
- Reduces the availability and access to prescription drugs that can attribute to overdoses.
- Helps keep out of reach from children and pets.
- **FREE and ANONYMOUS!**

For more information on the growing prescription drug abuse problem in Oklahoma, or to find a prescription drop box location near you, please visit <http://www.okimready.org/>. The RPC's Mission is to encourage individual responsibility, positive behavior, and personal growth; strengthen families and communities; promote a drug-free society through education, training, prevention, research, advocacy, and environmental strategies. The idea is to equip communities, organizations, law enforcement, schools, and other community members so that they may have an impact on solving local problems and setting local norms. Red Rock RPC is funded through the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. For more information on our prevention services at Red Rock RPC, please contact Julia Cochran at 405-422-8872 or visit [www.redrockrpc.com](http://www.redrockrpc.com).

