

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Safe Use, Storage & Disposal of Prescription Medications

The Red Rock Regional Prevention Coordinator (RPC) would like to remind community members that prescription drug overdoses involving opioids continues to be one of our nation's fastest growing problems. More than 115 people die every single day as a result of an opioid overdose. In Oklahoma in 2016, more than half of all overdose deaths involved an opioid; that's 437 Oklahomans who died that year as a result of this ever growing problem.¹ Anyone can be at risk for a drug overdose if they are not taking medication as directed or with a valid prescription. There are many things a person can do to help prevent the prescription drug overdose problem. The RPC is asking community members to safely use, safely store, and safely dispose of their prescription drugs by cooperating with the following requests:

- Please remember to only take medication that is prescribed to you & follow the doctor's advice regarding your prescription. NEVER take more than the prescribed amount & NEVER sell or share your prescription medications.
- Please keep your prescriptions in a safe place where family & friends do not have access to them; lock them up if necessary! Make sure medications are in the original bottle and keep track of the number of pills you have left so you know immediately when they are missing.
- Please take your un-used or expired medications to a local drop box. These boxes are made available by the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics & are most likely located at your local law enforcement agency. In Custer County, there are 2 locations: Custer County Sheriff's Department in Arapaho, OK and the Weatherford Police Department in Weatherford, OK.

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 services please contact Red Rock RPC at (580)323-9736 or visit the RPC website at www.redrockrpc.com.

¹ Prescription for Change. <http://okimready.org/the-epidemic/>