



Did You Know?

June 2018

National Safety Month – Safe Drug Disposal: June is the National Safety Council’s National Safety Month. An important aspect of safety that is often forgotten is the proper disposal of unneeded drugs and syringes. Safe disposal of drugs and syringes when they are no longer needed helps reduce the risk of accidental exposure, illness or harm within our community.

What You Should Know:

- According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), most prescription drugs that are abused come from family members or friends, whether they are shared willingly or taken without the knowledge of the person to whom they are prescribed.
- Accidental exposure to drugs causes thousands of poisonings each year, most of which take place in the home. Locking up medications and disposing of them promptly and properly can help prevent these poisonings.
- Water treatment facilities are not able to filter drugs flushed down the toilet. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, about 75% of pharmaceuticals can be found in the water supply.

What You Can Do:

- Don’t wait until medications are expired; Dispose of drugs and syringes as soon as they are no longer needed.
- Educate others on the dangers of keeping medications longer than necessary.
- Talk to others about how proper disposal can help ensure the safety of others.
- **There are free, safe disposal sites for drugs and syringes all across Erie County.**
 - All disposal sites are **NO QUESTIONS ASKED**.
 - Drug disposal sites can accept illegal/illicit drugs, vitamins, prescriptions and over-the-counter medications, regardless of if they are expired or not.
 - Both medications and syringes can be taken to your local police department for disposal. Aside from police departments, not all locations accept both syringes and drugs, so be sure to verify what the disposal site can accept beforehand.
 - To find the disposal site nearest you, visit the Erie County Department of Health website at www.erie.gov/health or the website The Point at www.thepointny.org.

NATIONAL
SAFETY
MONTH



Information obtained from: www.nsc.org; www.samhsa.gov; www.dea.gov; www.erie.gov/health; www.thepointny.org; www.fda.gov; www.usqs.gov

USE for PRESS RELEASE More info: Allexxia MergenHagen 716-831-2298 amergenHagen@eccpasa.org

The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Inc., publishes Did You Know, a regular update about alcohol & other drugs - - America’s #1 public health problem. ECCPASA • 1625 Hertel Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216 • 716-831-2298 • www.eccpasa.org