



**Press Release**

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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**DEC Encourages Participation in National Drug Collection Day**

(JUNEAU, AK) – The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is encouraging Alaskans to participate in National Drug Collection Day Saturday Oct. 29, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration of the U.S. Department of Justice.

National Drug Collection Day was established to protect public health and the environment through safe collection and disposal of unwanted, expired prescription medication. Drug collection reduces the chance of drugs being improperly discarded where they can potentially enter water bodies and harm the environment or human health.

“DEC endorses DEA’s National Drug Collection Day because we believe this is an excellent program for disposal of unused and expired medications,” said Solid Waste and Pesticides Program Manager Bob Blankenburg.

Drugs will be collected anonymously. Collection sites will be open across the state and more locations are added every day.

For a complete list of collection sites, visit the National Take Back Initiative website at:

[http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/index.html](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html).

For more information on safe disposal of drugs, visit DEC’s website:

[http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/sw/Docs/Prescription\\_&\\_Vet\\_Medicine\\_Disposal.pdf](http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/sw/Docs/Prescription_&_Vet_Medicine_Disposal.pdf).

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