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Press Release

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DEC Encourages Participation in National Drug Collection Day

(JUNEAU, AK) – The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) encourages Alaskans to participate in National Drug Collection Day Saturday April 28, 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.

Alaskans participated in two collection days in 2011 and one in 2010. The amount of drugs collected has increased with each event. Statewide totals include:

- 1,336 lbs Sept 2010
- 1,604 lbs April 2011
- 1,877 lbs Oct 2011

“The fact that the amount of collected material continues to increase is a sign that more and more Alaskans are recognizing the danger in simply throwing medications away,” said Environmental Health Director, Kristin Ryan. “Proper medication disposal is important to keep them out of our environment and avoid misuse. We look forward to another successful event and hope it will continue to catch on.”

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.

For more information on safe disposal of drugs, visit DEC's website: http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/docs/sw/Prescription_&_Vet_Medicine_Disposal.pdf.

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