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Press Release

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DEC Encourages Participation in Second National Drug Collection Day of 2012

(JUNEAU, AK) – The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) encourages Alaskans to participate in the second National Drug Collection Day of the year on Saturday Sept. 29 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 have participated in several collection days over the past three years. The Saturday event will be the second for 2012. 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
- 2,722 lbs April 2012

“Every year the amount of collected material is increasing. This means an even greater amount of drugs will be disposed of properly rather than entering our environment,” said Acting Environmental Health Director, Elaine Busse Floyd. “We look forward to another successful event and hope this trend will continue into the future.”

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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