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October 17, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Lt. Paul Manning, Police Public Information Officer, at 234-6131

POCATELLO TAKING BACK UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS
Event Set October 29, 2011

Pocatello, Idaho – On October 29, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Pocatello Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is giving the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Citizens are encouraged to bring medications for disposal to the drop off site at the Pocatello City Hall parking lot, 911 North 7th Avenue. The service is free and anonymous – no questions asked.

Last April, Americans turned in 376,593 pounds—188 tons—of prescription drugs at nearly 5,400 sites operated by the DEA and more than 3,000 state and local law enforcement partners.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—pose potential safety and health hazards. This initiative addresses vital public safety, health and environmental issues.

Everyone is encouraged to support the initiative and participate with local law enforcement hosting this effort. Clean out those medicine cabinets. Controlled, non-controlled, and over-the-counter substances will be collected. No questions or requests for identification will be made. Participants may dispose of medication in its original container. All solid dosage medications and liquids in consumer containers will also be accepted. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container. Intra-venous solutions, injectables, and syringes will not be accepted due to the potential hazard posed by blood-borne pathogens.

For more information call the Pocatello Police Department at 234-6131 or Pocatello Water Pollution Control at 234-6256 ext 25.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
VETERAN'S PREFERENCE

Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired
medication for safe disposal
Saturday, October 29th



**DROP OFF YOUR UNUSED OR EXPIRED
MEDICATION AT THE**

**POCATELLO CITY HALL PARKING LOT
911 N. 7TH AVENUE**

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 29
10:00am to 2:00pm**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
234-6256 or 234-6131**