



PUNTA GORDA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Media Release

Punta Gorda Fire Department announces new “Operation Medicine Cabinet”

All media representatives are invited to join the Punta Gorda Fire Department with the initiation of our latest community service program, “**Operation Medicine Cabinet.**” In cooperation with The Punta Gorda Police Department and Drug Free Charlotte County, we are taking a proactive stance by helping to remove and properly dispose of unused/unneeded prescription medications.

Starting Friday March 5, 2010, at 9:00am The Punta Gorda Fire Department will unveil the new program and the public can bring their unused/unneeded or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications to the Punta Gorda Fire Department located at 1410 Tamiami Trail.

Residents will be able to deposit unused and expired medications into the Vault (Drop Box) for proper disposal, no questions asked. All participants will remain anonymous. The goal of “**Operation Medicine Cabinet**” is to get rid of dangerous and potentially deadly prescription drugs before they fall into the wrong hands. An additional benefit of the program is this will help to prevent drugs/medications from being disposed of improperly, which will result in reducing the impact on the environment.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, more than 6 million people over the age of 12 will begin to abuse prescription drugs in the next year. Every day in the United States approximately 2,500 youths, between the ages of 12 and 17, abuse prescription drugs for the first time.

Attached you will find a flyer that gives some specifics of the program. We would appreciate your assistance with making the public aware of the program.

Any questions please feel free to contact me

Ray Briggs, Training Chief

Punta Gorda Fire Department

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PUNTA GORDA FIRE DEPARTMENT

OPERATION



MEDICINE CABINET™

A Prescription for Safe Kids and a Clean Environment

**FOR SAFE & ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE DISPOSAL,
PLEASE DEPOSIT UNUSED & EXPIRED PRESCRIPTION &
OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS IN THE CONTAINER BELOW.**

ITEMS ACCEPTED HERE:

- Controlled Substances/Narcotics including Vicodin, Oxycodone, etc.
- Prescribed Medications including antibiotics, medication samples, medications for pets, medicated ointments/lotions
- Over-the-counter medications
- Vitamins
- Inhalers
- EpiPens (unopened)

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED HERE:

- Needles/syringes (see F.D. for Sharps Recovery Program)
- Thermometers
- IV bags or bloody/infectious waste
- Personal care products including shampoo, soap, lotions, etc.
- Hydrogen peroxide/other chemicals
- Aerosol cans
- EpiPens (used)
- Iodine solutions (Betadine)
- Business waste



**CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACCEPTED
AT THIS LOCATION**



**PUNTA GORDA
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**DRUG
FREE
CHARLOTTE COUNTY**



**PUNTA GORDA
POLICE DEPARTMENT**