



## ***FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT***

250 Cypress Street  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437-5437

**FABIAN E. LIZARRAGA**  
Chief of Police

(707) 961-2800  
Fax: (707) 961-2806

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**Releasing Officer:** Fabian Lizarraga, Chief of Police  
**Event:** DEA National Take Back Initiative Event  
**Date / Time of Event:** Saturday, October 26, 2019  
10:00a.m. ~ 2:00p.m.  
**Location of Event:** Fort Bragg Police Department  
250 Cypress Street, Fort Bragg

### **CIRCUMSTANCES:**

On Saturday, October 26th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Fort Bragg Police Department and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will give the public its 18th opportunity in nine years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to the Fort Bragg Police Department at 250 Cypress Street. Our location will also be accepting sharps at this event. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last fall, Americans turned in nearly 469 tons (more than 937,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at nearly 6,300 sites operated by the DEA and almost 5,000 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 17 previous Take Back events, the DEA and its partners have taken in almost 11.8 million pounds—nearly 5,900 tons—of pills.

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.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows year after year that the majority of misused and abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including someone else's medication being stolen 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—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the October 26th Take Back Day event, go to [www.DEATakeBack.com](http://www.DEATakeBack.com) or contact the Fort Bragg Police Department at 707-961-2800.

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