



**MADISON COUNTY
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For Immediate Release

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RE: 328 Pounds of Pills Collected in Madison County

The Safe Pill Collections, conducted on September 25 in Madison County, collected 328 pounds of pills through the joint efforts of a number of Madison County agencies and the New York State Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

The September 25 Safe Pill Collection marked the third such event sponsored by the Madison County Department of Solid Waste, Madison County Sheriff's Office, RSVP, Madison County's Promise and STOP DWI. It was the first national take-back day for the DEA. Both state and local agencies were focused on removing potentially dangerous controlled substances from the nation's medicine cabinets.

The Safe Pill Collection held at the Madison County Landfill took in 240 pounds of medication from 130 families and one workplace. The DEA collection sites – one in Canastota collected 50 pounds of medication from 25 people; while two collection sites in Cazenovia collected 38 pounds of pills from 26 people for a grand total of 328 pounds of pills. In both cases the medications collected were transported to the Oswego County incinerator in Fulton, NY where they were disposed of under the supervision of state and local law enforcement officers.

The first Safe Pill Collection held at the Madison County Landfill in September of 2009 resulted in the collection of 141 pounds of pills. The second collection event held at the County Landfill in the spring of 2010 resulted in the 380 pounds of over the counter and prescription drugs being incinerated.

"The Safe Pill Drop Off event, as well as similar events, are great for our community and environment. By taking these medications out of the cabinets we are reducing availability for abuse. Alarmingly, more than three in five (62% or 14.6 million) teens say prescription pain relievers are easy to get from parents' medicine cabinets according to the Office of National Drug Control Policy. These events are also preventing water contamination by properly disposing of these medications through incineration"- Sarah Johnson, Madison County's Promise Coordinator.

