



# Cochise Health & Social Services

Mary Gomez, Director

"Building A Healthier Future"

**\*\* MEDIA RELEASE \*\***

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**Date:** **April 23, 2014**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Safe, Secure and Convenient Drug Disposal Now Available to County Residents**

Cochise Health and Social Services and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office are proud to kick off their new Medication Disposal Program on Saturday May 10. On that date between 9:00 am and noon, the two County agencies will participate in the regular "Shed-it Shred-it" event hosted by the Bisbee Community Chorus at the ACE Hardware in Bisbee (1220 S. Naco Highway).

This event allows county residents to bring papers, electronics, and now unwanted or expired household medicines for safe and secure disposal or recycling. The Bisbee Community Chorus gratefully accepts donations for the document shredding and recycling of electronics, with all net proceeds supporting the annual concert schedule of the Chorus.

The County encourages residents to use this opportunity to safely dispose of potentially dangerous unused household medications absolutely free of charge (liquids, aerosols, and inhalers may not be accepted due to disposal limitations). According to Mary Gomez, Director of CHSS, "This program will prevent illness, abuse, or overdose by children and adults from prescription medications, and will also protect our environment and water supply by providing a convenient and safe method to dispose of these medications."

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office also will be demonstrating the use of its recently acquired "Drug Terminator" portable medicine incinerator that can safely, efficiently, and cleanly destroy unwanted or expired household drugs.

As a crucial component of the new program, the County is installing permanent drug collection units at ten conveniently located community-partner sites:

- |                                 |   |          |
|---------------------------------|---|----------|
| • Fry Fire Department           | 4817 S. Apache Ave. (& Yaqui), Sierra Vista | 378-3276 |
| • Tombstone Fire Department     | 315 E. Fremont St., Tombstone               | 457-2202 |
| • Huachuca City Fire Department | 500 N. Gonzales Blvd., Huachuca City        | 456-1353 |
| • Bisbee Police Department      | 1 W. Highway 92, Bisbee                     | 432-2261 |
| • Douglas Fire Department       | 1400 E. 10 <sup>th</sup> St., Douglas       | 364-2481 |
| • Sunsites Fire Department      | 105 Tracy Rd., Pearce                       | 826-3645 |
| • Elfrida Fire Department       | 10293 N. Central Hwy, Elfrida               | 642-3749 |
| • Willcox Police Department     | 320 Rex Allen Dr., Willcox                  | 384-4673 |
| • Whetstone Fire Department     | 2422 N. Firehouse Ln., Huachuca City        | 456-1717 |
| • Benson Hospital               | 450 S. Ocotillo Ave., Benson                | 586-2261 |

*\*\*\* more \*\*\**

*Public Programs, Personal Service: [www.cochise.az.gov](http://www.cochise.az.gov)*

*Email: [health@cochise.az.gov](mailto:health@cochise.az.gov)*

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|----------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Main:</b>         | 1415 Melody Lane, Bldg. A, Bisbee, AZ 85603     | Phone: 520-432-9400 | Fax: 520-432-9480 |
| <b>Benson:</b>       | 126 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street, Benson, AZ 85602 | Phone: 520-586-8200 | Fax: 520-586-2051 |
| <b>Douglas:</b>      | 1012 N. G. Avenue, Suite 101, Douglas, AZ 85607 | Phone: 520-805-5600 | Fax: 520-364-5453 |
| <b>Sierra Vista:</b> | 4115 E. Foothills Dr., Sierra Vista, AZ 85635   | Phone: 520-803-3900 | Fax: 520-459-8195 |
| <b>Willcox:</b>      | 450 S. Haskell Ave., Willcox, AZ 85643          | Phone: 520-384-7100 | Fax: 520-384-0309 |



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All of the drug collection units will be in place no later than May 1. Please contact your closest site for their specific operating hours.

The following items will be accepted for disposal in the drug collection units: prescription medications and ointments; over-the-counter medications; vitamins; medication samples; pet medications; and written prescriptions and prescription pads.

Items that cannot be accepted include hydrogen peroxide; inhalers; aerosol cans; liquids; medications from businesses, doctors' offices or clinics; needles; and thermometers.

For further information on the Cochise County Medication Disposal Program, please contact Jennifer Steiger at 520 432 9400 or Carol Capas at 520 432 9500,

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## **About Cochise Health and Social Services**

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, Cochise Health and Social Services promotes health and quality of life for all Cochise County residents through education, service, and leadership. For more information, please visit our website at <http://cochise.az.gov/health>. Recent media releases may be viewed at <http://cochise.az.gov/healthnews>.

*Public Programs, Personal Service: [www.cochise.az.gov](http://www.cochise.az.gov)*

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