



**SOUTHWESTERN PA HOUSEHOLD  
HAZARDOUS WASTE TASK FORCE**

ADMINISTERED BY:  
Pennsylvania Resources Council  
64 South 14th Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
www.swpahhw.org



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## **PHARMACEUTICAL COLLECTION EVENT A SUCCESS**

**October 23 event in Mt. Lebanon results in the proper disposal of over 700 lbs of prescription, over-the-counter and veterinary medications!**

On Saturday, October 23, more than 225 Pennsylvania households participated in the second pharmaceutical collection event sponsored by the Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force (a project of the Pennsylvania Resources Council).

The four-hour event held at the Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building resulted in the collection of 66 pounds of controlled substances and 641 pounds of non-controlled and over-the-counter medications. A professional contractor, law enforcement officials and licensed pharmacists were on site to ensure all material collected was handled in accordance with all federal, state and local laws.

“On a national level, estimates point to upwards of 200 million pounds of pharmaceutical waste being generated each year, so the need for collection events is evident,” according to Dave Mazza, Regional Director of PRC and Task Force Administrator. “PRC and the Task Force were pleased to partner with Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield to sponsor this pharmaceutical collection as a means to educate the public and provide a responsible option for disposing of these potentially harmful products.”

Mazza added, “Improper disposal of medications via drainage systems poses potentially serious problems to the environment since most conventional wastewater treatment facilities cannot effectively eliminate pharmaceutical compounds. Keeping these prescription medications in the home or disposing of them in the regular trash can also cause problems including misuse of medications, accidental poisoning and possible groundwater contamination.”

“The event was a great success, and we would like to thank all of the sponsors, volunteers and participants that helped us to make a positive impact on our local environments,” stated George Mihalovich, Task Force Co-Chair. “Our interaction and conversation with participants reinforced our belief that the public is very concerned about this issue and wants to take an active and ongoing role in the safe and responsible disposal of pharmaceuticals.”

This pharmaceutical collection was sponsored by the Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force and Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield in partnership with PA American Water, the Allegheny County Health Department, Municipality of Mt. Lebanon, UPMC, the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, NewsRadio 1020 KDKA, and other private and public sector partners.

To date, the Task Force’s efforts have provided for the safe collection and disposal of more than 1,400 pounds of pharmaceutical waste. The group collected and safely disposed of nearly 700 pounds of pharmaceutical waste at its first event in Hampton Township earlier this year.

The Task Force has collected nearly 2.5 million pounds of common household chemicals over the past eight years. For more information concerning the Task Force, please visit [www.swpahhw.org](http://www.swpahhw.org) or call 412-488-7452.

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