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Kenneth Bell, Chief of Police

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Prescription drugs are dramatically increasing Van Buren Police Departments death investigations and attempted suicides. This is a new phenomenon that is occurring across America. During 2011 in Van Buren alone, death investigations increased from 27 to 38 and attempted suicides increased from 15 to 31. A further look at the issue indicated prescription drugs were playing a significant role in our department's increases. Prescription drug related deaths increased from 4 to 10 in 2011, a 150% increase. Those numbers may not seem extreme, but you must remember this Van Buren, Arkansas, population 22,750.

We still see marijuana, cocaine, and meth, but prescription drugs are America's and Van Buren's newest drug epidemic. I want to make sure everyone is aware of this epidemic and realize it is a real problem, even in Van Buren, Arkansas. We must consciously keep track and safe guard our prescription pills, and ensure that our loved ones are properly taking prescribed medications.

The Van Buren Police Department will participate in our fourth national "Drug Take Back" event on April 28, 2012. Citizens are encouraged to turn in all old and unused prescription drugs during this event. You simply have to walk into the police department or any other participating location and drop the prescription drugs into a box. As Chief of Police I feel compelled to make everyone aware of this real problem and ask everyone to do their part and properly dispose of old and unused prescription drugs.

Respectfully,

Kenneth Bell
Chief of Police

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OUR PROJECT