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BUILDING COMMUNITY

Building Trades joins group battling opioid addiction



Affiliates of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council hold drug disposal kits they received at the launch of a new coalition working to prevent drug abuse and misuse. Educating consumers about properly disposing of unused prescription medications is a key component of the campaign.

Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council (OSBCTC) has partnered with more than a dozen local, state, and national organizations in an effort to find solutions and share best practices for prevention, treatment and recovery related to prescription drug misuse.

The RX Abuse Leadership Initiative (RALI) of Oregon announced its launch Oct. 1 at the Northeast Portland union hall shared by Bricklayers Local 1 and Cement Masons Local 555.

A major focus of the launch was the importance of educating consumers about properly disposing of unused prescription medications. Experts say this is one of the keys to stopping misuse, which in turn helps prevent addiction.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 530 Oregon residents died from drug overdose in 2017 — many of those related to illegal opioids like fentanyl and heroin. Overdose rates continue to climb

across the country.

Too often, addiction to illegal opioids begins with misuse of prescription medications.

“One of our primary missions is to ensure the health and safety of our members and their families,” said Robert Camarillo, OSBCTC executive secretary. “We are taking a proactive approach to fighting the opioid epidemic by providing our workers with the support and resources they need to break free from addiction.”

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is Saturday, October 26.

Too often, home medicine cabinets play a role in potential addiction. Safely disposing of unused medications can help prevent a child, loved one or friend from misusing medicines that were not prescribed to them.

Here's what you can do:

- Mix your unused medicines with a household substance like kitty litter or coffee grounds in an airtight container. Seal the container and you can dispose of it in the trash.
- Bring your unused medicines to an official drug collection site: Find the nearest one at takebackday.dea.gov

MORE ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN
 Visit rali-or.org

RALI Oregon's safe disposal efforts helps educate consumers about common ways to safely dispose of unused medications, including using everyday household items or specialized drug disposal pouches. Through this initiative, RALI partners will distribute pouches to residents across the state.

Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family

Help Make Someone's Holiday Special This Year!



Presents From Partners Children's Holiday Party is the premier cooperative effort among the union trades. During the event the Credit Union sponsors the Parents Room where children select presents for their parents or caregivers. Help us bring joy by making a donation!

- * **Bring an unwrapped gift for a man or woman to the Credit Union (suggested value of \$10)**
- * **Donate cash and let one of our Elves do the shopping for you!**
- * **Cash accepted until 12/6/19**



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