

# HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## News Release



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### August 2 is National Night Out Sheriff's Office is encouraging prevention of medication abuse

August 1, 2011 (MINNEAPOLIS) – Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek would like to remind all residents that **Tuesday, August 2 is National Night Out.**

There will be traditional displays of outdoor lights and front porch vigils in neighborhoods throughout Hennepin County. Residents will celebrate National Night Out with a variety of events such as block parties and cookouts. (Note: In some cities, this crime prevention event on August 2 is organized and named as, “Night to Unite.”)

This year, Sheriff's Office personnel will attend more than 70 events in 22 communities including Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Greenfield, Minneapolis, and New Hope – to name a few. During their visits with residents, Sheriff Stanek and deputy sheriffs will share important public safety information about preventing medication abuse.

“National Night Out is a great opportunity to remind families about new issues in public safety that pose a threat to their neighborhoods and their children,” said Sheriff Stanek, “Law enforcement is asking for help from citizens to reduce the supply of unwanted medications in their own homes so that we reduce the risk that those medications could be diverted, misused, or accidentally ingested by children.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control, medication abuse is an epidemic and the fastest growing type of drug abuse in the U.S.

Residents are encouraged to take the following precautions:

- **Properly dispose of your unwanted medication** at a Hennepin County Medicine Collection Event. The Sheriff's Office and Hennepin County will hold four collection events this year. Visit [www.hennepinsheriff.org](http://www.hennepinsheriff.org) for dates and locations.
- **Secure your prescription and over-the-counter medications in a safe place in your home.** Your medicine cabinet is an easy target for people who want to misuse or abuse medications.
- **Talk to your kids about the dangers of abuse.** Establish rules and monitor the supply of medications.

(More)

Schedules for National Night Out or Night to Unite events will vary depending upon location. Activities may include; games for children, firefighter and law enforcement vehicle displays, and visits from the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. Please contact your city hall to learn where events are being held in your area.

Here are a few examples of planned community events:

**Kick-off to National Night Out** (\*Note: this event is TONIGHT and it is PRIOR to National Night Out)

Brooklyn Center Police Department & the city of Brooklyn Center

**Location:** Centennial Park, 6301 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center

**Date/Time:** Monday, Aug. 1 at 6pm-8pm

**Maple Grove - National Night Out**

**Location:** Maple Grove Community Center, 12951 Weaver Lake Rd, Maple Grove

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, Aug. 2, 11am-1pm

**Plymouth - Night to Unite**

**Location:** Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Plymouth

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2:30pm-5pm

**Greenfield – National Night Out**

**Location:** Greenfield City Hall, Greenfield

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, Aug. 2, 6pm-8pm

For media questions, contact PIO Lisa Kiava at 612-919-5918 or [lisa.kiava@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:lisa.kiava@co.hennepin.mn.us)

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