Secure Medications and Other Hazards before You Pack

Are you moving? Helping a parent downsize? Closing down the home of someone who died? That’s rarely a one-person job. Family and friends may come to help you sort and pack. Some may bring their children. Before they arrive, you need to secure the home, removing or locking up hazards and valuables. It is especially important to look for medicines, guns, poisons, cash, and credit cards. Don’t forget about the pills in nightstands, dresser drawers, and kitchen cabinets.

In 2012:

- Poison control centers fielded more than 750,000 calls about children under age 5 who ingested medicines, vitamins, cosmetics, or personal care products.

- 667,000 people in the United States stole prescription drugs from family members and friends. Remember, a bottle of pain pills can be worth $1,000 on the street.

Don’t let your pack project become a statistic. Planning ahead can keep everyone safe.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration supports the Preventing Prescription Abuse in the Workplace Technical Assistance Center. For more information, contact PAW-TA@PIRE.org. To join the PAW Listserv, visit http://paw.dsgonline.com, or simply scan the QR Code to the right.

The content of this document is for public use and can be adapted for use in other materials.