



PRO FORMA MEDIA RELEASE FOR 2022 EVENT PARTNERS

Time to remember loved ones and end overdose.

Local communities in **Eastern Idaho** and around the world are coming together to remember those who have died or suffered permanent injury due to drug overdose.

Observed on the 31st of August every year, International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) seeks to create better understanding of overdose, reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths, and create change that reduces the harms associated with drug use.

The following events will be taking place in honor of International Overdose Awareness Day:

- **Candlelight Vigil** organized by Soldiers of Hope (Allen Abood and Kathy Chin) to remember those lost to overdose in Eastern Idaho and acknowledge the grief of loved ones left behind.

Wednesday, August 31, 2022 from 7:00pm to dark @ Civitan Park in Idaho Falls:
900 W. Elva/Riverside Dr.

- **Drug Overdose Prevention and Response Training (Naloxone Training)** organized by Eastern Idaho Public Health.

Wednesday, August 31, 2022 from 12-1pm @ Eastern Idaho Public Health in Idaho Falls:
1250 Hollipark Dr. Idaho Falls, ID 83401 (Conference Room)

A light lunch will be provided thanks to a generous donation from Domino's Pizza.

Contact Mallory Johnson to RSVP and for any questions:
Mallory Johnson mjohnson@eiph.idaho.gov or 208-533-3221

- **Virtual Opioid Overdose Response Training** organized by Southeastern Idaho Public Health.

The virtual training will be offered during the following times:

- o Wednesday, August 31, 2022 from 12:00 to 1:00pm
- o Wednesday, August 31, 2022 from 6:00 to 7:00pm

To register for a virtual training please click [here](#).

By holding an event this year, the people of **Eastern Idaho** are joining themselves to a global movement for understanding, compassion, and change.

People and communities come together annually to raise awareness of one of the world's most urgent public health crises – one that, unfortunately, is only getting worse.

According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime's most recent World Annual Drug Report, nearly half a million people around the world died as a result of drug use in 2019.

Idaho Drug Overdose Mortality data from 2021 indicates 353 Idahoans experienced fatal drug overdoses. Of those 353 drug overdoses, 241 deaths were related to any opioid overdose and 152 deaths were related to fentanyl overdose. For additional Idaho Drug Overdose Data visit:

<https://www.gethealthy.dhw.idaho.gov/drug-overdose-dashboard>

Eastern Idaho Public Health's Drug Overdose Prevention Program advances opioid prevention work through public and prescriber education, local capacity building, public safety partnerships, and social determinants of health.

Eastern Idaho Public Health provides information and presentations to community members and organizations about the current state of opioid use in Idaho, safe storage and disposal of prescription opioids, illicit opioids, opioid overdose warning signs, availability of naloxone, how to administer naloxone, and Idaho's Good Samaritan Law. Presentations include overdose recognition and demonstrations of nasal naloxone.

If you or your organization are interested in hosting a Drug Overdose Prevention and Response Training (Naloxone Training) or have questions, please contact Mallory Johnson mjohnson@eiph.idaho.gov or 208-533-3221

For additional information regarding Eastern Idaho Public Health's Drug Overdose Prevention Program, click [here](#).

Naloxone can temporarily reverse an opioid overdose. To find naloxone near you click [here](#).

For additional information on how to safely store prescriptions as well as dispose of unused/expired prescriptions, click [here](#).

A full list of the IOAD 2022 events currently planned around the world is displayed at: <https://www.overdoseday.com/activities-2022/>

International Overdose Awareness Day is convened by Penington Institute, an Australian not-for-profit.

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