

April is Alcohol Awareness Month

Alcohol Awareness Month, sponsored by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence since 1987, is celebrated each year during the month of April. Communities are encouraged to focus on alcoholism and alcohol-related issues during this month. This event began as a way to reach the American public with information about the disease of alcoholism and to stress that alcoholism is treatable. As part of Alcohol Awareness Month, Fresno County is for the second year participating in the National Alcohol Screening Day at numerous sites throughout Fresno County. These sites offer a free, no pressure, and short alcohol screening for interested individuals. The screenings are available at the following sites and dates in the Fresno County area:

Thursday April 8th 10:00-3:00
Save Mart Shopping Center
15040 West Whitesbridge Kerman, CA
For more information call: 229-3737

Thursday April 8th 10:00-3:00
University Medical Center
Kings Canyon & Cedar Fresno, CA
For more information call: 264-5096

Thursday April 8th 10:00-3:00
Community Health
1221 Fulton Mall Fresno, CA
For more information call: 453-4773

Saturday April 10th 11:00-4:00
Manchester Center Mall
Blackstone & Shields Fresno, CA
For more information call: 452-2817

Thursday April 8th 10:00-3:00
Fashion Fair Mall
First & Shaw Fresno, CA
For more information call: 265-4800

Tuesday April 13th 11:00-3:00
River Park Mall
Blackstone & Nees Fresno, CA
For more information call: 452-2817

Thursday April 8th 2:00pm-10:00pm
Tower Theater
815 East Olive Fresno, CA
For more information call: 268-4015

Thursday April 15th 10:00-3:00
Fresno City College
1101 East University (By Student Union
& the Fountain) Fresno, CA
For more information call: 265-4800
Alcohol Facts

- Nearly 14 million Americans meet diagnostic criteria for alcohol use disorders
- Approximately on-half of US adults report a family history of alcoholism or problem drinking
- Heavy drinking increases the risk of high blood pressure, heart disease, certain cancers, accidents, violence, suicides, birth defects and overall mortality
- Economic costs to society are estimated at \$185 billion annually
- Harmful and hazardous drinking is involved in about one-third of suicides, one-half of homicides, and one-third of child abuse cases
- The progression of alcohol abuse and alcoholism is usually faster in women than in men
- Researchers have identified no safe threshold for drinking during pregnancy
- More than 41% of high school seniors perceive no great risk in consuming four to five drinks nearly every day
- Among college students who consumed alcohol, more than 47% in 1999 reported drinking to get drunk
- Alcohol is frequently a factor in the three leading causes of death (motor vehicle crashes, homicides, and suicides) for 15 to 24 year olds

For more information or questions, please call the EOC Substance Abuse Prevention Department @ 263-1564