

# Prescription drug users prey on open houses

*The Associated Press*

POSTED: 03/11/2014 12:09:08 PM PDT

SAN DIEGO—San Diego authorities and local real estate agents say prescription drug abusers are preying on open houses and raiding medicine cabinets to feed their addictions.

Law enforcement, a local Realtor association and drug rehabilitation experts announced Tuesday that they have teamed up to launch public service ads on local TV and radio stations to raise awareness about prescription drug abuse and the ways addicts obtain the drugs, including by going to open houses.

The Greater San Diego Association of Realtors plans to provide its 12,000 members plastic bags to collect the prescription drugs at homes.

Officials do not track the cases stemming from open houses but District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis said prescription drug cases have risen nearly 85 percent over the past five years in the county.

## Prescription Drug Addicts Target Open Houses

DAILY REAL ESTATE NEWS | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014

Prescription drug abusers reportedly are posing as home buyers and using open houses to raid medicine cabinets and night stands in search of drugs.

A group of real estate agents, organizations, and businesses have teamed up to form the Safe Homes Coalition to raise awareness. The

group's initial focus is in San Diego County, but it hopes the message will spread across the country.

The Greater San Diego Association of REALTORS® has joined law enforcement and drug rehabilitation experts in the coalition to launch a public service ad on local TV and radio stations to raise awareness about prescription drug abuse. The goal is to warn others about prescription drug thefts that are occurring at open houses and to urge home owners to secure and dispose of their prescription drugs properly.

The Greater San Diego Association of REALTORS® will provide its real estate members with plastic bags to urge their clients to collect prescription drugs prior to an open house.