National Poison Prevention Week, March 20-26, 2016

More than 2 million poisonings are reported each year to the Nation’s poison centers. According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, approximately 90 percent of poisonings happen at home, and 51 percent of poisonings involve children under the age of 6. The majority of fatal poisonings occur among adults, especially older adults.

National Poison Prevention Week was established by the US Congress in 1961 to focus national attention on the dangers of poisonings and how to prevent them.

Program the Poison Help number into your phone.

1-800-222-1222
Accidents happen. Be prepared. Program the Poison Help line number into your phone and share it with your family and friends so it’s there when you need it most.

Don't Guess. Make the Call.

1. Call Poison Help (1-800-222-1222), which connects you to your local poison center, if someone may have been poisoned – even if you’re not sure.
2. Stay calm – most poisoning emergencies can be resolved quickly.
3. Call 9-1-1 if the person is unconscious or has trouble breathing.

Spring Poison Prevention

As you begin spring cleaning and work on the yard, follow these simple tips to keep your family safe:

Household cleaners and other products

- Keep poisons in the containers they came in. Do not use food containers (such as cups or bottles) to store household cleaners and other chemicals or products. These should be stored away from food.
- Read and follow the directions for use of products and their disposal. Do this before using the products. Follow the advice carefully and never mix chemicals or household cleaners or detergents. Doing so can create a poisonous gas.
- Turn on fans and open windows when using chemicals or household cleaners, and never sniff containers to see what is inside.
- When spraying chemicals, direct spray nozzle away from people and pets.
- Even in small amounts, windshield wiper fluid is poisonous. If swallowed, it can cause blindness or death to people and pets. Use it carefully to avoid spraying it in someone’s face.
- Chemicals can burn the skin. Drain openers, toilet cleaners, rust removers, and oven cleaners can cause such burns.
- Liquids made from petroleum, such as gasoline, kerosene, charcoal lighter fluid, paint thinner, baby oil, lamp oil, and furniture polish, are poisonous.
  1. If these items are swallowed, they can easily get into the lungs. Even a small amount can cause breathing problems. The liquid coats the inside of the lungs and prevents oxygen from entering the blood stream.

Pesticides

- Pesticides (pest killers) can be taken in through the skin or inhaled and can be extremely poisonous. Even leather shoes and gloves do not offer full protection. Stay away from areas that have been sprayed until the spray has dried or for at least one hour.
- Wear protective clothing when using bug spray or other spray products. Put on a long-sleeve shirt, long pants, socks, shoes, and gloves. Remove and wash clothing after using chemicals.
- If pesticides are splashed onto the skin, rinse with running water for 15 to 20 minutes. If pesticide contacts clothing, take off the clothing before rinsing skin.
- Many garden chemicals are poisonous if swallowed or inhaled by children and adults.