National Poison Prevention Week is March 19-25, 2017

Poisoning is the #1 cause of injury-related death in the United States. The third week in March each year is designated as National Poison Prevention Week, a week dedicated to raising awareness about the burden of poisoning in the U.S. and highlighting specific ways to prevent it.

Be Prepared

Be prepared for poisoning emergencies by programming the Poison Help line in your phone today. Calls are free, confidential, and answered by experts 24/7/365.

1-800-222-1222

Practice Safe Storage Habits

Ideally, the following things should be stored up, away, and out of sight of children and in their original containers. Alternatively, keep these substances in cabinets secured with child-resistant locks. *Keep in mind that there is no such thing as a 100% child-proof lock or container.*

- All medications and pharmaceuticals, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and supplements
- Tobacco and e-cigarette products, especially liquid nicotine
- Alcohol
- Laundry and cleaning supplies
- Pesticides and insect repellents
- Button batteries, such as those found in musical greeting cards, key fobs, etc.
- Oils and lubricants, including fragrance oils, tiki torch oils, engine oil, etc.
- Personal care products, especially contact lens disinfectants and hand sanitizers
- Other chemicals
Read and Follow Labels and Directions

Make a habit of reviewing the label on any potentially hazardous substance or product prior to use, especially before administering medications. Take care to follow not only usage directions, but the directions provided for safe storage and disposal.

Detect Invisible Threats

Install carbon monoxide detectors in your home.

Prepare Food Safely

Practice safe food preparation and handling to avoid food poisoning.

This information was gathered from the American Association of Poison Control Center website:  http://www.aapcc.org/

Check out their ALERTS page for more information including statistics on exposures and managed cases:

- E-Cigarettes and nicotine (390 exposures just in Feb 2017)
- Laundry detergent packets (1,558 exposures in 2017 in kids 5 years of age or younger)
- Food and Mushroom poisoning (Almost 31,000 cases managed in 2015)
Poisoning is the leading cause of injury-related death in the U.S. In 2014, there were 56 poison centers serving 323 million people, nationwide. Poison centers managed 2.9 million cases, about 2.2 million of which were about people coming into contact with dangerous or potentially dangerous substances. These types of cases are called exposures.

Who calls the poison center? Anyone can experience a poison emergency. Poison centers take calls from and manage cases about people of all ages, and can provide help in 150 languages. In 2014, just under half of exposure cases managed by poison centers involved children younger than six, but as in previous years, many of the more serious cases occurred among adolescents and adults.

When someone calls the poison center, who answers the phone? Poison center cases are managed by medical experts — doctors, nurses, and pharmacists who have extensive training in poison prevention and treatment.

About what kinds of things do people call the poison center? In 2014, 57% of human exposures involved medications, or pharmaceuticals. Other exposures were to household products, plants, mushrooms, pesticides, animal bites and stings, carbon monoxide, and many other types of nonpharmaceutical substances.

From Table 3A of the 2014 AAPCC NPDS Annual Report - Age and Gender Distribution of Human Exposures. Excludes unknown age categories. N=2,056,697

From Table 2 of the 2014 AAPCC NPDS Annual Report - Site of Call and Site of Exposure, Human Exposure Cases. N=2,165,142
Where do the most poison exposures occur? In 2014, 91% of human exposures occurred at a residence, but they can also occur in the workplace, schools, outdoors, and anywhere else! About 68% of the 2.2 million exposures reported to poison centers were treated at the exposure site, saving millions of dollars in medical expenses. In fact, poison centers save Americans more than $1.8 billion every year in medical costs and lost productivity!

Why do people call the poison center? People call the poison center when they think someone may have been exposed to something that could hurt them. People also call the poison center for information about medications, pesticides, chemicals, bites and stings, carbon monoxide, and many other topics. In 2014, almost 80% of exposures involved people who swallowed a substance. However, people were also exposed through the lungs, skin, eyes, and in other ways. Most poison exposures were unintentional (79%). Poison centers also received calls about medication side effects, substance abuse, malicious poisonings, and suicide attempts.

WHEN?
Experts answer calls to the poison center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. Similar to previous years, in 2014 higher call volumes were observed in the warmer months.

WHY?
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To locate your local poison center call 1(800) 222-1222 or visit aapcc.org.