

# MCLB ALBANY SAFETYGRAM

## NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK

MARCH 18 – 24

What is a poisoning? According to American Association of Poison Control Centers;

A poison exposure occurs when a person swallows, breathes, touches, or gets splashed in the eye with something that can cause sickness or death. Pain medicines and household cleaning products are common causes of poison exposures in the U.S. Most consumer products are safe if label directions are followed, but some can be poisonous if used incorrectly. More than 2 million poisonings are reported each year to the 57 poison control centers across the country. More than 90 percent of these poisonings occur in the home. The majority of non-fatal poisonings occur in children younger than six years old. Poisonings are one of the leading causes of death among adults.

### Leading Causes of Poisoning for Children

- **Poisons are not stored properly**
  - Leaving recently used medication on a counter or table
  - Opened cleaning products unattended for "just one second"
- **Children are curious**
  - About taste, smell, texture of products
  - By smelling, touching, and tasting
- **Children think a poison is something other than a poison**
  - Cough syrup, shampoo and fuels are safe to drink, because they look like fruit punch or soft drinks
  - Medicine tablets look and taste like candy
- **Children imitate the behavior of adults**
  - Children copy what they see adults do:
    - o Taking medication
    - o Drinking colored liquids
    - o Spraying chemicals



Every 8 seconds someone calls a Poison Center



[Click Here For Video](#)

### Leading Causes of Poisoning for Adults

- **Pain killers**
  - Follow directions on Drug Facts label
  - Know the "active ingredient"
  - Never share prescription medicines
- **Sedatives** (drugs used to reduce anxiety), hypnotics (sleeping pills), and antipsychotics (drugs used to treat mental illness)
  - Follow directions on Drug Facts label
  - Know the "active ingredient"
  - Never share prescription medicines
- **Household cleaning supplies**
  - Read the label first
  - Do not mix cleaning products
  - Keep products in their original packages



If you think someone has been poisoned – "Act Fast" - Don't wait to see what happens!

### When to Call 911



- If someone collapses
- If someone isn't breathing
- If someone is having seizures
- If someone won't wake up

### When Making an Emergency Call

Tell the Poison Control Center Expert the following:

- What happened?
- When?
- What symptoms the victim is having?
- The victim age?
- Name of product involved?
- Amount of product involved?
- Your contact information?

*Note:* Remain on the telephone until the specialist has dismissed or told you to hang up.

### What to Do If Someone Is Poisoned

Poison made contact with **eyes**:

- Gently wash eyes with lukewarm tap water
- Have victim to blink as much as possible

Poison made contact with **skin**:

- Remove contaminated clothing
- Wash skin with large volumes of water

Poison made contact with **mouth**:

- Remove all items from the mouth
- Examine mouth for burns, cuts, or irritation

Poison is **inhaled**

- Immediately get victim to fresh air
- Avoid breathing the fumes, open windows



For a poison emergency in the U.S. call **1-800-222-1222**  
American Association of Poison Control Centers

**Risk Management 639-5249**  
Prepared By: Johnny Little

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