

MONTHLY SAFETY BLAST
PARTNERS IN POISON PREVENTION



According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC), 1,730 people died in 2010 as a result of poison exposure. A poison is defined by the AAPCC as “any product or substance that can harm someone if it is used in the wrong way, by the wrong person, or in the wrong amount”

(<http://www.aapcc.org/dnn/PoisoningPrevention/FAQ.aspx>). Potentially dangerous items or exposures could include pesticides, fertilizers, cleaning agents, household products (cosmetics and personal care products), snake bites, spider bites, scorpion stings, or prescription drugs. Pesticides are identified by the AAPCC as one of the most dangerous poisons.



Although children under the age of 6 accounted for about half of all exposure calls in 2010, adults accounted for 92 percent of all deaths. The Poison Control Centers collected information from 3.9 million calls in 2010. Details from each call to a Poison Control Center are uploaded to their National Poison Data System within 20 minutes, putting them in a prime position to recognize emerging public health concerns. Educators and scientists can use data from the AAPCC to support research and curriculum development.

The AAPCC also provides poison prevention materials and information. Free stickers, magnets, and brochures are available to help educators share poison prevention messages with target audiences. The SW Ag Center also developed a Chemical Look-a-Like display for group presentations. Construction instructions are available at

http://www.swagcenter.org/files/pdf/lookalike_display_intrs_booklet.pdf.

Poison Prevention Tips:

- Keep potential poisons in their original containers.
- Store food and chemicals in separate areas.
- Keep pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals locked up.
- Read and follow directions on pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemical products.
- Ensure proper ventilation when using chemicals indoors. Turn on a fan and open windows.
- Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when using poisons.
- Attend the recommended trainings for pesticide application.
- Call the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 if an exposure occurs. There is even an app for that! iPhone users can download the new Poison Help app to connect with the Poison Control Center. Applications for Droids, Blackberries, and Windows-based smart phones are on the way.



Resources:

<http://www.aapcc.org/dnn/Portals/0/News%20Release%202010%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

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