



Maryland Poison Center
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1-800-222-1222

Poison

Prevention Press

May 2009

Volume 2, Issue 2

Tiki Torch Fuel: Cases of Mistaken Identity

Tiki torch fuel can pose a danger to all ages. The liquid is often poured from the original container into a cup to make filling the tiki torch easier. The liquid can then be mistaken for apple juice or ginger ale while it is in a cup because they are very similar in color. Prevent unintentional ingestions of tiki torch fuel by keeping the product in its original container and using a funnel to pour it directly into the tiki torch. Tiki torch fuel should always be stored in a locked cabinet and away from food items.

Did you know that...

In 2000, there were only 96 cases of Tiki torch fuel ingestions reported to poison centers nationwide, but there were 299 cases reported in 2007 and 353 cases in the first 6 months of 2008 (including 2 deaths)

In 2008, the Maryland Poison Center received 524 calls about exposures to hydrocarbons (gasoline, kerosene, lamp oil, lighter fluid, etc)

Warm Weather Activities Harbor Hidden Threats to the Whole Family

Exposures to sunscreen, glow sticks and swimming pool chemicals are common calls to the Maryland Poison Center during the summer months. Sunscreen in the eyes is very irritating, but will not result in long-term damage if the eyes are irrigated properly at the time of the exposure. Glow sticks often break and the liquid gets in a child's mouth, on their skin or in their eyes. Serious effects are not common with glow stick exposures. Swimming pool chemicals are very irritating when inhaled. Call the Maryland Poison Center for instructions on handling these common exposures.



Family cookouts and picnics are a popular summer-time activity. Both charcoal and gas grills have hidden dangers associated with their use. Lighter fluid used with charcoal grills can cause significant irritation when it comes in contact with the skin or eyes or is inhaled. Ingestions of lighter fluid are alarming because some of the product can get into the lungs if the person gasps or gags while swallowing. All exposures to lighter fluid should be reported to the Maryland Poison Center immediately. It is very important **not** to induce vomiting if lighter fluid is swallowed. Gas grills should only be used outdoors because there is the potential risk of carbon monoxide exposure associated with their use.

Plants pose another summer-time hazard. Berries on bushes and trees are attractive to little ones. Children may think these berries look like the ones they had for dessert, but they may be poisonous. Mushrooms can also be attractive to children. The most severe poisoning cases involving mushrooms are in adults who think they know what mushrooms are safe and make a meal of their find. Chemical testing is the only safe way to identify whether a mushroom is safe to eat. Stick with the mushrooms in the grocery stores.

Critters are out there sharing the great outdoors. Questions about bee, wasp and hornet stings, snake bites, tick bites and jelly fish stings can be answered by calling the Maryland Poison Center. Most of these calls can be managed at home. There are two venomous snakes in Maryland, the Timber Rattle Snake and the Northern Copperhead. Tick bites in Maryland can result in Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme Disease. Call the poison center immediately for management of snake and tick bites.

Vacation homes and hotel rooms should be poison-proofed as much as possible. This is a little more challenging because storage space is more limited. If the hotel room does not have a lockable cabinet, lock medicines and personal care products in a suitcase. Keep the nationwide telephone number (1-800-222-1222) with you. Calling this number from anywhere in the United States will connect you directly to the poison center nearest to where you are.