

toxtidbits

THE MARYLAND POISON CENTER'S MONTHLY UPDATE.
NEWS. ADVANCES. INFORMATION.

National Poison Prevention Week

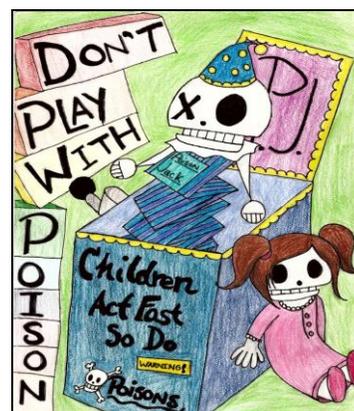
National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) is March 17-23, 2013. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 87 people die and another 2,277 are treated in emergency departments each day as a result of unintentional poisoning. Join the Maryland Poison Center in using this week to encourage the public to take steps to prevent poisonings and to be prepared if a poisoning occurs.

How can you help promote National Poison Prevention Week?

- Distribute poison prevention pamphlets, telephone stickers and magnets that you can obtain by using our online order store at www.mdpoison.com
- Set up a display or bulletin board about poisons and poison prevention
- Give poison education presentations to local schoolchildren and community groups
- Make sure that every phone at your workplace has a poison center phone sticker, and program the number into your cell phone
- Promote NPPW through local newspapers, TV and radio
- Use the NPPW Planner available at <http://poisonhelp.hrsa.gov/what-can-you-do/national-poison-prevention-week/index.html> to guide you in planning your activities

Here are suggested messages that you can use in your National Poison Prevention Week activities:

- *Children Act Fast...So Do Poisons*
 - Children younger than six account for about half of the calls to poison centers
- *Poison Centers Save You Time and Money*
 - Free, fast, and confidential expert advice is available 24/7
 - Almost 70% of calls to the Maryland Poison Center are managed at home and without referral to hospital
- *Poisonings Span a Lifetime*
 - Most calls to poison centers are about children, but teens, adults and seniors are also at risk for poisonings.
- *Home, Safe Home*
 - More than 90% of poisonings happen in the person's home
- *Spotlight on Prescription Analgesics*
 - Prescription drug abuse is an epidemic. Encourage proper use and disposal of unused prescription drugs.



NPPW 2013 Poster Contest winner:
Natalie Loos, age 13, Jacksonville, FL

Did you know?

Poisoning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death, behind only motor vehicle crashes.

In 2009, 31,758 (76%) of the 41,592 poisoning deaths in the U.S. were unintentional. Among people 25-64 years old, unintentional poisoning caused *more* deaths than motor vehicle crashes. Unintentional poisoning death rates have been rising steadily since 1992, primarily due to the rise in prescription drug abuse. (*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control*)

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