



AAPCC NEWS RELEASE

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American Association of Poison Control Centers Celebrates the 56th Annual National Poison Prevention Week

Alexandria, VA – American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) will unite with the nation’s 55 poison control centers to celebrate the 56th Annual National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW), March 18-24, 2018, a week dedicated to raising awareness about poisoning in the U.S. and highlighting specific prevention techniques.

“From medication mishaps to poisonous outdoor exposures, poisonings can happen anywhere, at any time, to anyone,” said Stephen T. Kaminski, JD, AAPCC CEO and Executive Director. “During National Poisoning Prevention Week, poison control centers want to remind the public that while poisoning is the leading cause of injury death in the United States, many poisonings are preventable, and expert help is always just a phone call away.”

In 2016, someone called a U.S. poison control center about a human exposure every 12 seconds. “Approximately 67 percent of the 2.2 million exposure cases reported to poison control centers in 2016 were treated at the site of exposure, saving American taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars in medical expenses,” said Kaminski. “Our nation’s poison control system continues to play a crucial role in keeping Americans safe. By programming the Poison Help phone number, 1 (800) 222-1222, into your phone and posting it somewhere visible in your home, you can be ready in the event of a poison emergency or if you or a loved one needs information.”

This National Poison Prevention Week, the American Association of Poison Control Centers reminds everyone that many poisonings are easily preventable by taking these simple, quick, and crucial steps:

- **Be prepared for an emergency.** Keep the national, free Poison Help number at your fingertips: 1-800-222-1222. Text POISON to 797979 to save the number in your mobile phone.
- **Practice safe storage habits.** Always store medicines and hazardous substances up, away, and out of sight of children. Keep these substances in their original, child resistant containers.
- **Read and follow all labels and directions.** Review medicine and product labels before use.
- **Detect invisible threats.** Have a working carbon monoxide detector in your home.

While most poisoning deaths are due to the misuse and abuse of licit and illicit drugs, poison exposures can involve a vast array of substances and occur in many ways. In 2016, just over half of all exposure cases involved medicines or drugs. Other exposures included those to household products, plants, mushrooms, pesticides, animal bites and stings, carbon monoxide, and many other types of non-pharmaceutical substances. Ingestion was the route of exposure in almost 79 percent of the cases in 2016. However, people were also exposed to potentially dangerous substances through the lungs, skin, eyes, and other routes.

For additional information on National Poison Prevention Week, along with poison prevention tips, resources, and information regarding your local poison control center, visit AAPCC's website at <http://www.aapcc.org/>

Individuals and organizations who would like to follow social media content pertaining to NPPW should use and search for the hashtags #PoisonHelp, #PreventPoison, and #NPPW18.

Web: www.aapcc.org

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AAPCC>

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About American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC)

AAPCC supports the nation's 55 poison center members in their efforts to treat and prevent drug, consumer product, animal, environmental, and food poisoning. Members staff the Poison Help hotline at 1-800-222-1222 that provides free, confidential, expert medical advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year from toxicology specialists, including nurses, pharmacists, physicians and poison information providers. In addition, AAPCC maintains the only poison information and surveillance database in the United States, providing real-time monitoring of unusual poisoning patterns, chemical exposures and other emerging public health hazards. AAPCC partners with federal agencies such as HRSA, CDC, FDA and EPA, as well as private industry. **Be prepared for a poisoning emergency and download poison control's contact information today. Text "poison" to 797979 to save the national Poison Help hotline in your phone (1-800-222-1222).**