

Central
New York
Regional
Poison
Control
Center

Poison Prevention Newsletter

July 2000



UniversityHospital • 750 East Adams Street • Syracuse, NY 13210

P&C Foods and Upstate Auxiliary Support Inhalant Education Program

The CNY Poison Control Center's *Inhalant Education Program* is now available in all 14 counties served by the Central NY Regional Poison Control Center thanks to the financial support of the Auxiliary to Upstate Medical University and that of P&C Foods. The Auxiliary provided grant funding to develop the program and Teaching Kits which include presenters guide, video, informational brochures and helpful visuals. P&C Foods provided the visual portion of the program, donating common household products (that are often used as inhalants) to be part of the teaching kits. If you would like more information about this program please call the CNY Regional Poison Control Center at 315-464-5375.

A Note From Heidi Kuhl, Health Educator

This is my last newsletter as the Health Educator at the Central New York Regional Poison Control Center. I am leaving to pursue self-employment opportunities.

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Mushroom Safety

It seems that as soon as the spring and summer rains begin, the number of mushroom exposures handled by the Poison Control Center increase. Children of all ages are intrigued by the white fungus that is found in most backyards. It is easy to see why a child would be drawn to these mushrooms, as they look very similar to the ones often found in salad or used for other cooking purposes. The difference, of course, is that mushrooms purchased in grocery stores are edible and the ones growing in the backyard may be dangerous, or even fatal, if ingested.

Toxic and non-toxic mushrooms can grow side by side. It is very difficult to tell the difference between them. Never eat a wild mushroom, and teach young children never to eat them. Never take chances by eating wild mushrooms just because they look like a familiar favorite – you may be wrong. Many kinds of mushrooms look very much alike. It takes a specialist, such as a mycologist in a laboratory, to correctly identify a mushroom with certainty. If someone does ingest an outdoor mushroom you should always call the Poison Control Center immediately for treatment advice and recommendations.

Some general tips for avoiding poisonings from mushrooms and other plants include:

- **Never** eat any part of an unknown plant, berry or mushroom.
- **Learn** the names of the plants in your home and yard. The Poison Center will need to know the name of the plant if you call for information or for a poison emergency.
- **Keep** poisonous house plants, bulbs, and seeds well out of reach of children and pets.
- **Do not** think a plant is not poisonous just because birds or other wildlife eat it.
- **Do not** rely on cooking to destroy poisons in plants.

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**We're always available for both poison emergencies
and poison information**



**365 days a year
24 hours a day
Call for a telephone sticker**

On-Loan Poison Prevention Resources

Would you like to present a program on Poison Prevention? In addition to calling the CNY Regional Poison Control Center's Health Educator (315-464-5375) for brochures and telephone stickers, you can also access and borrow teaching kits and videos in each county of our 14 county service area. These are the current contact names and numbers by county:

Broome: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Jan Kohen at 607-772-8953.

Cayuga: Cayuga Community Action Agency, Carol Wilkes at 315-252-0038.

Cortland: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Leslie Kannus at 607-753-5077.

Chenango: Chenango Co. Health Dept., Mary Beth Ryan at 315-337-1660.

Herkimer: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Linda Robbins at 315-866-7920.

Jefferson: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Carol West at 315-788-8450.

Lewis: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Michelle Ledoux at 315-376-5270.

Madison: Department of Health, Leah Gaskins at 315-684-3001.

Oneida: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Amanda Hewett at 315-736-3394.

Onondaga: CNY Poison Control Center, Health Educator at 315-464-5375.

Oswego: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Deanna Mason at 315-963-7286.

Tioga: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Judy Wolf at 607-687-4020.

Tompkins: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Helen Howard at 607-272-2292.

St. Lawrence: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Nancy Hess at 315-379-9192.

Teaching Programs Available Include:

Look-Alike Teaching Kit (available in most counties-if not available call CNYPCC at 315-464-5375 for our **Teacher's Guide** which includes a complete description of how to make your own teaching kit)

Inhalant Education Program for Parents (available in all counties – for video portion only please call the CNYPCC at 315-464-5375)

Videos Available Include:

Billie and The Poison Round-Up: Take a tour of common poisoning hazards in the home with our poison hero, Billie the Ball. This 6 minute video is appropriate for kids 4 and up.

Treating Yourself With Care: Information especially for Senior Citizens related to medication hazards and precautions. This 25 minute video addresses the safe use of both over-the-counter and prescription

Look-Alikes: A taped TV interview with our Education Coordinator, Gail Banach in which our Look-Alike kit is shown and discussed. This 20 minute video is appropriate for high school age audiences and adults.

EDUCATE – Creating Inhalant Abuse Awareness Together: A powerfully emotional and educational look at the topic of Inhalant Abuse. A must-see for parents, teachers, and community educators.

A Note From Heidi Kuhl, Health Educator

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It has been a pleasure to work with so many wonderful individuals in my time here. I have appreciated the cooperative efforts of so many that have made my job a rewarding experience.

Until a new Health Educator is hired, please contact our secretary, Lauri Van Atta, with any questions or requests for information. She can make sure you get the information or contact person you need. Her number is 315-464-7078.

Mushroom Safety

Continued from page 1

- **Never** use anything prepared from nature as a medicine or "tea" unless the plant is non-poisonous.
- **Call** the Poison Center for information on which plants are potentially poisonous.
- **Always** call the Poison Center IMMEDIATELY if any plant, bulb, seed, wild berry, or wild mushroom is ingested. The Poison Information Specialist will instruct you what to do next.

PESTICIDES ARE POISONS

Chemicals used to control or eliminate pests (i.e.: rodents, insects, diseases and weeds) are called pesticides. Pesticides can be classified as fungicides, herbicides, insecticides and rodenticides. They can be packaged as aerosols, sprays, dusts, or fumigant bombs.

Pesticides are poisons. They are not "safe". All are toxic to something. Although their intent is to poison "pests", often people and pets are poisoned when the products are used, stored, or disposed of improperly.

When using pesticides, be sure to:

- Read the ENTIRE label BEFORE you use the product, and follow the instructions CAREFULLY.
 - Use **only the amount of product indicated and no more**. Don't think that twice the amount of product will do twice the job - IT WON'T!
 - Recognize that bug repellent sprays and lotions (the kind used on your skin) *are pesticides* and can be dangerous when absorbed, ingested or inhaled.
- Carefully and correctly dispose of used pesticide containers. Poisoning can result from a very small amount of product residue in a container.
 - Always store pesticides in their original containers, well out of reach of children or pets.
 - Always use the correct personal protective equipment. If the label recommends protective clothing, wash the clothing separately after use.
 - Before applying pesticides (indoors or outdoors) remove children, toys, food, and pets from the area, and keep them away until the pesticide has dried or longer if the label recommends.
 - Never place rodent or insect baits where children or pets can reach them.
 - Don't use pesticides on a windy day. Avoid contact with pesticide drift resulting from improper application.
 - Keep the telephone number of the Poison Center near your telephone. If you have a question about pesticide safety, or a concern about pesticide poisoning call us IMMEDIATELY.

Avoiding Plant Poisonings

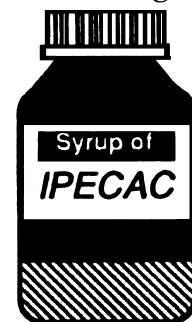
- **Never** eat any part of an unknown plant, berry or mushroom.
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POISON PREVENTION:

For copies of this newsletter, or for more information about poison prevention materials and programs, please contact CNYPC Health Educator, at 315-464-5375.

What is Syrup of Ipecac?

It is a medicine used to induce vomiting when certain poisons are ingested. Always keep a bottle of Syrup of Ipecac in your medicine cabinet. **DO NOT** give Ipecac unless told to by a physician or the Poison Control Center.

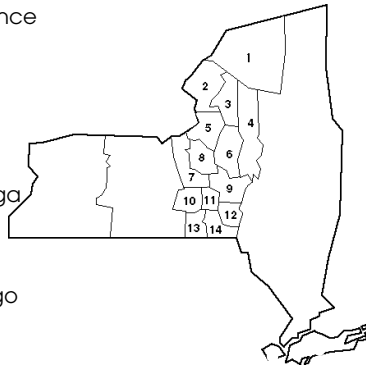


How You Can Prevent Poisonings

1. Store all drugs and chemicals in the containers in which you buy them and out of the reach of children.
2. Never put chemicals in food containers (e.g., never put bleach in a drinking glass or gasoline in a soda bottle).
3. Never call medicine candy.
4. Use products with safety caps. Make sure the tops are on tightly after use.
5. Read and follow label directions on all products before using them.
6. Dispose of "extra" or outdated medicine by flushing it down the toilet.
7. Keep the phone number of the Poison Control Center on or near your telephone. Call if you have a problem or question.

Service Area of the CNY Poison Control Center

1. St. Lawrence
2. Jefferson
3. Lewis
4. Herkimer
5. Oswego
6. Oneida
7. Cayuga
8. Onondaga
9. Madison
10. Tompkins
11. Cortland
12. Chenango
13. Tioga
14. Broome



A Service of the
State University of New York
Upstate Medical University
at University Hospital, Syracuse.
A Member of the
American Association of
Poison Control Centers

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