

Central  
New York  
Regional  
Poison  
Control  
Center

# Poison Prevention Newsletter

## July 2001



University Hospital • 750 East Adams Street • Syracuse, NY 13210

## Pesticides

Pesticides are intended to kill insects, herbs, fungus and rodents. They include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and rodenticides and are used both inside and outside of the home. However, they can harm humans and pets, if you are not careful.

Pesticides can enter the body by inhaling the fumes, eating or drinking the pesticide or by absorption through the skin or eyes. You can avoid direct contact with pesticides by wearing proper protective clothing when handling them. Also, be sure to **READ AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS ON THE LABEL!**

The Poison Control Center recommends you wear:

- Long-sleeved shirt and long pants
- Head covering, especially when spraying overhead
- Closed, nonabsorbent shoes or boots with socks (fabric shoes will absorb the pesticide)
- Waterproof gloves, not fabric garden gloves
- Safety goggles that have brow and side shields
- All protective clothing should be worn from the moment you start handling the pesticides.

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## New National Telephone Number... Same Local Poison Control Services

Calling your local POISON CONTROL CENTER is now easier than ever. Poison Control Centers have a new national 800 number. You can now call the Central New York Poison Control Center by dialing 1-800-222-1222.

In February 2000, the Poison Control Center Awareness and Enhancement Act was signed into law, which provided, in part, for the establishment of a single toll-free telephone number to access Poison Control Centers. Now, by dialing the national 800 number, your call will be digitally routed to the Central New York Poison Control Center. Gail Banach, Director Educator at the Center says that, "Thanks to the hard work and dedication of many organizations and individuals, the Poison Control Center will still be available to help in a poison emergency. The Central New York Poison Control Center will continue to provide the same local service it has for many years."

The addition of the national 800 number is just another way to access the Central New York Poison Control Center. "The system works pretty much the same as 911", says Banach. "Just as you would call 911 in an emergency, we hope to instruct communities to dial 1-800-222-1222 with any poison related calls, especially emergencies." Many Poison Centers work in collaboration with their local 911 Centers, triaging any poison calls that come into 911 directly to the Poison Control Center.

As a non-profit service, serving the public and medical communities in the United States, each Poison Control Center throughout the U.S. is assigned a specific service area.

Callers in the U.S. can still access their local Poison Control Center by dialing a local or a statewide toll-free number. However, this system encompasses over 130 different poison emergency numbers nationwide, often forcing callers to access one number when calling from

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



**CENTRAL NEW YORK  
POISON CONTROL  
CENTER**

**1.800.222.1222**

**365 days a year  
24 hours a day  
or visit on the web at  
[www.cnypoison.org](http://www.cnypoison.org)**

## New National Telephone Number... *Continued from page 1*

home and yet another when travelling. "Although our old numbers will still work", says Banach, "the new national 800 will be just another way to contact our Center. Eventually, the entire nation will have access to a Poison Control Center by dialing one 800 number, which will directly route the call to the local Poison Control Center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year."

Specialists in Poison Information, all of whom are Nurses or Pharmacists, trained in toxicology, staff the Poison Control Center. Twenty-four-hour consultation is provided by Physicians and Toxicologists. The Poison Center provides information on patient treatment and management, poison prevention information, as well as a full range of educational programming for health care professionals and for the general public.

The American Association of Poison Control Centers in cooperation with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the United States Department of Health and Information Services, and your local Poison Control Center are partnering in these efforts to make Poison Control Centers easily accessible to all U. S. residents. Soon, no matter where you are, or where you are traveling in the U.S., you will be able to reach the Poison Control Centers, local to that area, by dialing 1-800-222-1222.

The service is now available in the Central New York service area, but for other regions check with your local Poison Control Center to see if the number is yet accessible in your area.

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## Mosquitoes are Back

Mosquitoes have plagued humans throughout history. Modern control and monitoring programs have greatly reduced the incidence of yellow fever, malaria and encephalitis viruses. Eastern equine encephalitis and West Nile encephalitis remain significant diseases that have recently afflicted people in New York. Management includes intense surveillance for mosquito outbreaks and routine monitoring for diseases.

Control programs aim to use prevention to limit mosquito breeding. If encephalitis does break out in a community, outdoor activities must be restricted. The goal is to reduce the threat of disease and minimize pesticide applications for mosquito control.

An unusual outbreak of West Nile encephalitis in New York during 1999 has refocused our attention. This virus not only endangers humans, but can infect and kill horses. Birds that are infected can help spread the disease and may also die. These exotic diseases may be linked to increased human travel and transport of goods throughout the world.

Although mosquitoes are usually a nuisance and sometimes dangerous to public health, most specialists agree that elimination is unrealistic. A more realistic goal is population reduction and management below problem levels. This goal relies greatly on public education and awareness.

Before you consider spraying an insecticide, take a preventative approach. Pesticides should be used as a last resort.

To prevent mosquito breeding:

- Clean roof gutters
- Dispose of cans, buckets, pots, and other containers that can hold water
- Remove old tires
- Turn over wading pools and wheelbarrows
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools

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- Does your organization have a website?
- Does your organization work with children, parents, school nurses, teachers, senior citizens, health issues,

...OR...

- Are you a healthcare professional working in the treatment of the poisoned patient?

If yes, may we suggest you LINK our site to yours!  
Let's work together to promote wellness!

**Visit us on the web at [www.cnypoison.org](http://www.cnypoison.org)**

# Funding Granted For Education Programs

The Advocates for SUNY Upstate Medical University and P&C Foods have agreed to underwrite the cost of the Poison Control Center's most effective teaching tool, Look-Alike Kits.

P&C donated household products for our Look-Alike Kits, totaling close to \$2250. Grant funding in the amount of \$2,242 was awarded by The Advocates for the purchase of travel cases to house the products and wheeled luggage carts, to allow for ease of transport of the Kits.

The Look-Alike Kits contain food and common household products that look like poisonous products. Often the contents, or the packaging, can be mistakenly identified, one for another. Examples include, apple juice and pine cleaner or red hot candies and red decongestant pills, a chocolate bar and a chocolate laxative. Look-Alike Kits are used with every age group and are always well received.

The Kits will be distributed to each of our 14 point of service agencies, mostly Cooperative Extension offices, within our service area. Through our point of service agencies, community members, agencies, teachers, scout leaders and other interested personnel can borrow the Kits to teach poison prevention awareness to their clients, members or students. In addition to the Kits, teachers' guides, videos, brochures and telephone stickers and other educational materials are available through the point of service agencies. A complete listing of educational materials available through the Poison Control Center can be found at our new website at [www.cnypoison.org](http://www.cnypoison.org).

The Central New York Poison Control Center is grateful for the support of the Advocates for SUNY Upstate Medical University and to P&C Foods, for joining our efforts to promote poison prevention in our 14 county service area.

## Saturn Sponsors Website

Saturn of Syracuse and Saturn of Route 31 have agreed to sponsor the newly designed Central New York Poison Control Center Website ([www.cnypoison.org](http://www.cnypoison.org)). Thanks to Saturn of Syracuse and Saturn of Route 31, we are able to provide you with updated information on poison management and educational materials that are ready to print from your computer.

The site contains information about the Center and the important services offered the CNY community. Website visitors will find a comprehensive listing of educational offerings for both healthcare professionals and for the general public. Healthcare professionals can learn about the latest trends in toxicology management of the poison victim and how to get additional information. Education materials including brochures, seasonal tips and "FunPages" for kids available in *pdf* format, ready for you to print.

Although the telephone services of the CNYPC are limited to the Center's state-designated service area, the site lists helpful poison prevention tips. Both this newsletter, designed for the general public, and our toxicology newsletter, targeted to health care professionals, are available at the site.

Be sure to visit the site at [www.cnypoison.org](http://www.cnypoison.org), to check in on the latest updates in tox management. Bookmark our site for poison prevention tips or to print educational materials for your students, patients, scout troop, babysitter or anyone

with whom you want to share poison wellness! (One reminder .....in a poison emergency ....CALL 1-800-222-1222, which will connect you to the Poison Control Center in your local calling area! In printing our materials from the website, be sure to direct readers to 1-800-222-1222 or call the telephone # listed in the front cover of your local telephone directory for your local Poison Control Center.)

## Pesticides

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The Poison Control Center reminds you that when cleaning up after use:

- Wash rubber gloves or boots *before* taking them off
- Remove the clothing worn during application, as soon as possible
- Wash the clothing separately from any other items
- Wash all exposed areas on your body
- Be careful not to come in contact with the treated area after removing the protective clothing till the area dries. Review the directions for re-entry to treated area.

If you have a question or concern regarding pesticides, call the Central NY Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222, available 24 hours a day to take your call!

# Mosquitos are Back

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- Drain water from pool covers
- Change water in bird baths

To protect your family from being bitten by mosquitoes:

- Take safety precautions during outdoor activities between dusk and dawn, when many mosquitoes are active.
- Keep household screens in good repair and do

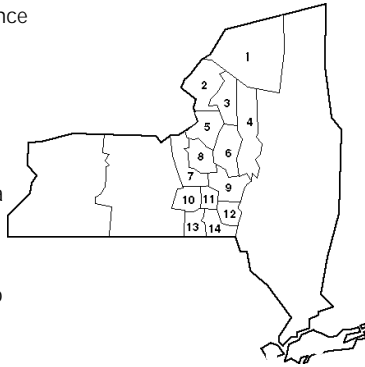
not prop open windows or doors.

- Wear shoes, socks, long pants and long-sleeved shirts.
- Consider using mosquito repellent, according to directions, when necessary outdoors. (see article on "Pesticides")

credit: NYS IPM Program

## 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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