



The New Jersey Poison Information & Education System

Serving New Jersey Since 1983

Designated regional poison center
for New Jersey by New Jersey
Department of Health and Senior
Services and the American
Association of Poison Control
Centers

Please distribute to the public; your local radio, magazines and newspapers; websites; etc.

PRESS RELEASE

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CHILDREN ACT FAST...SO DO POISONS **THE 47TH OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK**

(Newark, NJ) – March 16-22, 2008 – The doorbell rings and you leave your toddler playing quietly on the kitchen floor while you answer the door. Even though you were only gone for a couple of seconds, your child gets into the cleaners underneath the kitchen sink. What would you do? *Children Act Fast... So Do Poisons!*

Situations like the above occur in households across America often and could have been avoided if there had been a lock on the cabinet door. In any given year, there are between 2 and 4 million poisonings reported to poison control centers across the United States. Approximately 60% of those reported involve children under the age of 6 who were exposed to toxins in their homes. In order to prevent unintentional poisonings, it is important to promote awareness of poison prevention through various activities and outreach initiatives.

Each year, during the third week of March, the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) participates in National Poison Prevention Week (March 16-22, 2008). In observance of this year's National Poison Prevention Week, NJPIES reminds you to poison proof your home using the following safety tips:

- (1) Lock up all household chemicals and medicines (over-the-counter and prescription). Lock them up, out of reach and out of sight of children at all times
- (2) Always use child-resistant packaging. Be sure to replace the caps promptly and properly after use.
- (3) Call 1-800-222-1222 for immediate treatment or to answer your questions
- (4) Visit our newly, redesigned website today at www.njpies.org. You will find free downloads, be able to request a speaker to provide a poison prevention program for your organization, or order free educational materials in English/Spanish.

NJ Poison Center services include:

- ◆ **Emergency/Information hotline service** - Call **1-800-222-1222** right away if someone may have been poisoned or if you have questions about drug interactions, poisons, poison prevention, pesticide safety, poison proofing your home, etc. When you call this number, you talk to specially trained medical professionals (poison specialists) who are there to provide immediate emergency treatment advice for all kinds of poison exposures. Hotline services are **free and confidential** and available **24 hours a day, 7 days a week**. Translation and TTD/TTY services available.
- ◆ **Public Education** - Provide NJ residents with the information necessary to carry out poison safe practices in their workplaces, homes, and communities.

located at University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

- ◆ **Surveillance** - Poison Centers protect consumers by identifying hazards early. Poison Center data are the basis for product reformulation, repackaging, or recall. Without this surveillance, children will be needlessly injured, especially by newly marketed toxic products.