



## The New Jersey Poison Information & Education System

Serving New Jersey Since 1983

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

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# **4 Hospitalized, 1 Critically Ill, 1 Dead Torch Lamp Oil Mistaken for Apple Juice**

(Newark, NJ)- Six New Jersey residents became ill recently after ingesting a small amount of torch oil which was mistaken for apple juice. One individual, an elderly woman, died two days after mistaking the lamp oil for apple juice. Earlier in the month an 8 year old girl was hospitalized in critical condition and was placed on a ventilator also after mistaking the torch oil for apple juice. The child survived her illness but will live the rest of her life with damaged lungs.

In four of the 6 cases of lamp oil ingestions reported to New Jersey's Poison Information and Education System occurred when the victim drank the oil, which looks like apple juice, thinking it was apple juice.

According to Bruce Ruck, PharmD. of NJPIES, "It is very important to recognize lamp oil bottles closely resemble juice containers. When accidentally taken by mouth, such lamp oils can enter the lungs causing pneumonia and death. Jugs containing lamp oils must be stored in a locked cabinet away from storage of food and drinks."

There are other poisonous products which look like and come in containers closely resembling juices. It is important for families to lock up all such potentially dangerous products, keep them far from food and educate the entire family on the dangers of these "look-a-likes." The NJPIES website contains a poster representation of other dangerous look a likes, it is found at [WWW.NJPIES.ORG](http://WWW.NJPIES.ORG)

If you suspect a poisoning, call the poison control center for immediate treatment advice as well as for prevention information. Call **1-800-222-1222**, trained medical professionals will provide you with the most up to date emergency treatment advice, and will answer any drug or poison information question you may have.

***Remember, Help Is Just A Phone Call Away!  
Poison Emergency? Call 1-800-222-1222  
Questions about Poisons? Call 1-800-222-1222  
Questions about Poison Prevention? Call 1-800-222-1222  
Hearing Impaired May Call 1-973-926-8008***

located at University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

