



NEWS RELEASE

The New Jersey Poison Information & Education System
Serving New Jersey Since 1983



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Stay Safe during Hurricane Cleanup

24/7 Multilingual Hotline: 1-800-222-1222
Real People. Real Answers.

Dr. Steven Marcus, Executive and Medical Director
Dr. Bruce Ruck, Director, Drug Information and Professional Education
New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES)

Available for Interviews

Newark, N.J., September 1, 2011 — Now that hurricane cleanup has begun, the NJ poison experts want to remind residents how to stay safe and prevent accidental poisonings.

SAFETY TIPS TO PREVENT UNINTENTIONAL POISONING DURING THE CLEANUP PROCESS:

1. Do not use gasoline powered washers or generators in the basement, home, or garage. Gasoline powered equipment releases large amounts of carbon monoxide, increasing the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
2. NEVER MIX cleaning products such as ammonia and bleach or other disinfectants.
3. Use bleach to clean mold off hard things (like floors, stoves, sinks, certain toys, countertops, flatware, plates, and tools). Mix no more than 1 cup of bleach in 1 gallon of water.
4. When working with cleaning products, wear rubber boots, rubber gloves, goggles, and when necessary, a mask to prevent skin and respiratory irritation.
5. Open windows and doors to get fresh air when using cleaning products.
6. Wash hands routinely and thoroughly to prevent infection. Wash all clothing worn during cleanup in hot water separate from the laundering of routine clothing.
7. Take things that were wet for two (2) or more days and place them outside the home to be cleaned or thrown away.

Help is Just a Phone Call Away

The NJ poison experts were available around the clock during the hurricane and remain available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for poisoning related questions as well as for non-emergency questions regarding medications, household products, plants, environmental contaminants, or other poisons. If you suspect a poisoning, **CALL the NJ POISON CENTER'S HOTLINE IMMEDIATELY at 1-800-222-1222 for treatment**

advice. The NJ poison experts recommend putting the number in all family cell phones as well as programming it as a speed dial number on landlines. In addition, the hotline number should be prominently posted near all phones in the home. Real People. Real Answers.

About NJPIES

As New Jersey's only poison control center, the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System provide information on poison prevention and treatments. Chartered in 1983, NJPIES provides free consultation through telephone hotline services and the Web. Medical professionals such as physicians, registered nurses and pharmacists offer confidential advice regarding poison emergencies and provide information on poison prevention, drugs, food poisoning, animal bites and more. These specialists are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

NJPIES coordinates state poison education and research and is designated as the regional poison center by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and the American Association of Poison Control Centers. It tracks incidences of adverse reactions to food, drugs and vaccines in order to monitor potential public health issues and provide data to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A division of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health of the New Jersey Medical School of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, its state-of-the-art center is located on the school's Newark campus.

New Jersey residents seeking immediate information about treating poison emergencies, and those with any drug information questions, should call the toll-free hotline, **800-222-1222**, anytime. The hearing impaired may call **973-926-8008**. For more information, visit www.njpies.org or call **973-972-9280**.

About UMDNJ

The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey is the nation's largest freestanding public health sciences university, with more than 5,500 students attending. The state's three medical schools, a dental school, a graduate school of biomedical sciences, a school of health-related professions, a school of nursing and a school of public health are housed on five campuses — Newark, New Brunswick/Piscataway, Scotch Plains, Camden and Stratford. Annually, there are more than 2 million patient visits at UMDNJ facilities and faculty practices at the campuses. UMDNJ operates University Hospital, a level I trauma center in Newark, and University Behavioral HealthCare, a mental health and addiction services network.

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