



National Poison Prevention Week March 16th-22rd, 2014

What is a poison? A poison is anything that someone eats, breathes, gets in the eyes, or on the skin, that can cause a sickness or death.

A poison can be a drug or medication, which involves over half of the calls to the poison center. The fastest growing drug problem in the United States is the abuse of prescription medications. It is estimated that 30,000 Americans will die from prescription drug abuse and overdoses this year. Poisonings are the leading cause of unintentional injury deaths for ages 15 to 59, largely resulting from unintentional drug overdoses of prescription medications.

A poison can be a household, garden or personal care product; chemicals at home and work; plants; bites and stings; food poisoning or any item that can give an individual an unwanted or unexpected reaction.

You shouldn't wait for symptoms to develop-even if you aren't sure an individual was poisoned. If you wait for symptoms, look up information on the internet, call your physician's office or local emergency room- you are wasting precious time.

Nine out of ten calls to the poison center will be managed at home. There is unlikely any other number you program into your phone that will save you more money or time. You will immediately talk to a registered nurse who is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.

Since 1962, the President of the United States has proclaimed the third week of March as National Poison Prevention Week to raise awareness about the dangers of poisoning and how to prevent them.

Remember to call when...

"I just turned my back for a second and didn't think my child could climb that high and open the medicine cabinet!"

"My husband gave her the medicine earlier and so did I!"

"I just took my medicine and forgot I took it earlier!"

"I was just stung by a bee!"

"I just sprayed a cleaner into my eye and it burns!"

"My carbon monoxide alarm is going off!"

"I found some pills in my teenager's room!"

Don't hesitate – make the call – we are always a phone call away.

Our trained staff of nurse specialists in poison information and physician toxicologists is available 24 hours a day to answer your questions. In the Federated States of Micronesia, health care professionals and the public can reach the Poison Center by calling 288, wait for an automated operator, then 888-222-4516.