



## Utah Poison Control Center

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### Utah Poison Control Center Celebrates National Poison Prevention Week

SALT LAKE CITY – Poisoning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death in Utah and the United States. The Utah Poison Control Center (UPCC) is a 24-hour resource for poison information, clinical toxicology consultation and poison prevention education. Call first for expert advice from our toxicology experts who are specially trained pharmacists and nurses.

The UPCC joins poison centers across the country to celebrate National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) March 15-21.

Since 1962, the President of the United States has proclaimed the third week of March as National Poison Prevention Week. Gov. Gary R. Herbert also signed a proclamation declaring this week as Poison Prevention Week in Utah. The purpose of National Poison Prevention week is to raise awareness about the dangers of poisoning and to remind everyone about ways to prevent poisonings from occurring.

The UPCC assisted in the management of more than 45,000 poison exposures last year alone. While 60% of poison exposures occurred in children less than 6 years of age, poisonings can occur in any age group. If you think you or a loved one may have been exposed to a poison, call first and speak with a poisoning expert.

“When you reach the poison center you will speak to a toxicology expert,” said Executive Director Barbara Insley Crouch, PharmD, MSPH. “Don’t waste valuable time searching the internet, call first for timely medical advice.”

Calling the poison center is free and confidential. In addition, the poison center has a variety of poison prevention tools to help you keep your family and pets safe from poison exposures.

“It is vital that people arm themselves with basic information on poison prevention in the home and workplace,” Crouch said.

The majority of poison exposures can be managed on-site with the advice of a poison center expert, avoiding many unnecessary trips to your health care provider.

If the unthinkable happens, it’s good to know help is just a phone call away. Program your cell phone with the Poison Help number and post it near your home phone. 1-800-222-1222.

Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter for daily messages on poison prevention. For more information on NPPW or poison prevention in general, visit [www.utahpoisoncontrol.org](http://www.utahpoisoncontrol.org) or call the UPCC at 1-800-222-1222.

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#### About the Utah Poison Control Center

Poison center services were established in Utah in 1954. The Utah Poison Control Center just celebrated 60 years of poison center services in Utah. It is only the second poison center to reach this milestone. The UPCC is a program of the state of Utah and is administratively part of the University of Utah, College of Pharmacy. It is staffed around-the-clock with pharmacists and nurses with additional training in clinical toxicology.

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