

National Poison Prevention Week March 20-26, 2005

National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) was established in 1961 by the U.S. Congress' passage of Public Law 87-319 authorizing the President to designate annually the third week in March as a poison prevention awareness week. NPPW activities are organized each year by poison centers and the National Poison Prevention Week Council, a coalition of national organizations working together to prevent poisonings (www.poisonprevention.org). In 2003, U.S. poison centers reported over 1.2 million poisonings in children less than 6 years old. While most of these poisonings resulted in little or no clinical effects, there were 34 fatalities. NPPW activities focus on ways to reduce unintentional poisonings among children and emphasize the responsibility that caregivers such as parents, grandparents, babysitters and others have in preventing poisonings in the home.

How can you help promote National Poison Prevention Week? "Children Act Fast...So Do Poisons!" is the theme for Poison Prevention Week. There are many ways to promote NPPW in your community:

- Distribute poison prevention pamphlets, Mr. Yuk stickers, and telephone stickers and magnets.
- Set up a display or bulletin board about poisons, poison prevention, or Mr. Yuk.
- Give poison prevention presentations to local schoolchildren and community groups.
- Send NPPW information to community newspapers and newsletters.
- Give poison prevention kits to patients, customers and new or expectant mothers.
- Collect and discard expired medicines.
- Make sure that every phone at your workplace has a poison center telephone sticker on it.

Order your materials **now** to make sure you have them in time! Download an order form from our website at www.mdpoison.com. Fax your orders in by March 14 to guarantee the materials will arrive in time for NPPW. Any questions? Contact Angel Bivens at 410-563-5584 or abivens@rx.umaryland.edu.

DID YOU KNOW THAT... March 20-26 is also designated as National Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week (NIPAW)?

By the 8th grade, one in five students in America has used an inhalant to get high. NIPAW is a program to raise awareness of the use and risks of inhalant abuse. More information on NIPAW and free materials to promote NIPAW can be obtained by going to the National Inhalant Prevention Coalition website, www.inhalants.org, or by calling 800-269-4237.



Post and share this edition of **toxtidbits** with your colleagues. Send any comments or questions to: **toxtidbits**, 410.706.7184 (fax) or Lbooze@rx.umaryland.edu.

If you do not wish to receive faxes or emails from the Maryland Poison Center, call 410.706.7604 or circle your fax number and fax this back to 410.706.7184. Supported by Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene