



Certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers

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The Montana Poison Center and the American Association of Poison Control Centers Celebrates the 56th Annual National Poison Prevention Week!

This year, March 18 – 24, 2018, the Montana Poison Center, as part of the Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Center (RMPDC) along with the other 54 Poison Centers and the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) is participating in the 56th National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW), a week nationally designated to highlight the dangers of poisonings and how to prevent them.

“Poisonings can happen anywhere, anytime to anyone,” said Shireen Banerji, PharmD, DABAT, and Clinical Manager of RMPDC. “We assume most poisonings happen to children who accidentally swallow something. But adults can be poisoned, too, at home or work by chemicals, pesticides, cleaners, bites and stings, medications, food, the list goes on. Currently, poisonings are the leading cause of death by injury, but let’s work to change that statistic and practice poison prevention.”

To prevent poisonings, RMPDC recommends the following:

- **Be prepared for an emergency.** Keep the national, free Poison Help phone number at your fingertips by saving the number in your mobile phone: 1-800-222-1222
- **Practice safe storage habits.** Always store medicines and hazardous substances where children up, away, and out of sight. Keep these substances in their original, child resistant containers.
- **Read and follow all labels and directions.** Review medicine and product labels before you use them, especially before giving medicine to children.
- **Detect invisible threats.** Have a working carbon monoxide detector in your home.

In 2017, RMPDC handled over 7,500 cases in Montana. Most cases (81%) resulted in minor or no effects. RMPDC treated 59% of calls onsite or at home, saving people money and time.

All calls to RMPDC are answered by specially trained nurses, pharmacists, physicians, and para-professionals. In addition to lifesaving services, poison centers also provide educational outreach to prevent poison emergencies and inform the public about the dangers of poisons.

This National Poison Prevention Week we remind people that poisonings can occur anywhere, anytime, to anyone, and any substance can be poisonous. Be prepared by saving 1-800-222-1222 as a contact in your mobile phones.

Remember to follow National Poison Prevention Week on social media by following #PoisonHelp, #PreventPoison, and #NPPW18 on [Twitter](#), liking our [Facebook Page](#) and by saving the Poison Help phone number (1-800-222-1222) contact information in your phone by texting **POISON to 797979**.

Celebrating Over 60 Years of Serving the Community & Industry

Poison Center / Drug Center / Research & Consulting / Medical Toxicology

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