



Poison HOTLINE

1-800-222-1222

November 2014



Did you know

Only 50% of homes have a carbon monoxide detector.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced when a fuel is burned. Possible sources of CO within a home include gas or oil furnaces, water heaters, space heaters, clothes dryers, fireplaces, gas ovens, and car exhaust.

Carbon monoxide is odorless, yet easily detected with a CO detector. CO detectors are designed to alarm before most people experience symptoms. To be safe, install a CO detector on every level of the home and replace detectors every 7-10 years.

If the CO detector alarms, call the IPCC at **1-800-222-1222**.

“Hello, this is the Iowa Poison Control Center, how may I help you...”

Calls are made to the Iowa Poison Control Center (IPCC) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The center's phones are answered by specially trained nurses, pharmacists and board-certified toxicologists. Interpreters are available for non-English speaking callers through the use of a 24/7 language line service.

The IPCC serves the entire state of Iowa. Last year, the IPCC staff managed 25,690 human exposure cases and 854 animal cases. The staff also answered 14,548 information calls, which included the identification of 12,476 pills for the public, jails, police and health care providers.

Twenty eight percent of the exposure calls handled by the IPCC were from health care facilities and 72% came from the public. Forty nine percent of poisoning cases involve children younger than six years of age. Nearly 90% of calls from the public were managed safely and appropriately at home, saving over \$12 million annually in unnecessary health care spending.

The top 5 causes of poisoning calls to the IPCC include: pain killers; sedatives, hypnotics and antipsychotics; cosmetics and personal products; household cleaning products; and antidepressants.

The IPCC handles a wide variety of calls, including exposures to:

- Prescription and OTC medicines
- Bites, envenomations and stings
- Carbon monoxide and other gases
- Plants, animals and mushrooms
- Batteries and other foreign objects
- Tobacco and nicotine products
- Home and industrial chemicals
- Weapons of mass destruction
- Toxin-mediated diseases, such as ricin
- Compact fluorescent bulbs
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Personal care products
- Food poisoning
- Laundry products
- Heavy metals
- Arts and craft supplies
- Drug interactions



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Help**
1-800-222-1222

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