



**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™**  
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY  
EXPERIMENT STATION

# MAFES DAWG TRACKS

National Poison Prevention Week is the third full week of March each year. It's a time to raise awareness about the resource of poison control centers and the Poison Help Hotline:

**1-800-222-1222**

Calls are answered by physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and health educators who will assist with poisoning emergencies and questions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. There are 55 poison control centers across the United States that track poisonings and their sources, including household products, food and beverages, chemicals in the workplace and home, environmental toxins, drugs and medicine, and animal and insect bites and stings.

Most poison exposures occur in the home. If you have children or grandkids moving around, keep these items stored up, away, and out of sight of children; or at least in cabinets secured with child-resistant locks.

- All medicines, vitamins, and supplements.
- Tobacco and e-cigarette products, especially liquid nicotine
- Alcohol
- Laundry and cleaning supplies
- Pesticides and insect repellents
- Button batteries, such as those found in musical greeting cards, key fobs, etc.
- Any type of oil or lubricant, including fragrance oils, tiki torch oils, engine oil, etc.
- Personal care products, especially contact lens disinfectants and hand sanitizers
- All chemicals

While workplaces come in a distant second to homes as sites where exposures occurred, be mindful of these potential poison producers.

- Spoiled food in breakroom refrigerators, leaving the potential for food poisonings.
- Cleaning supplies - mixing or handling such products improperly can cause irritation to the skin, dizziness or breathing difficulties.
- If a job requires the handling of potentially dangerous equipment or instruments, read labels and use caution when taking over-the-counter or prescription medications.
- Be wary of fire ants, as well as spiders. The Brown Recluse & Black Widow spider can be found in old, stored boxes, unused files, under unmoved furniture, in old carpet or other inconspicuous.
- Pesticides – read & follow the label, remove any protective clothing worn during application & wash your hands afterward, keep people & pets away until the product has fully dried or dust settles.

Every year, the poison centers receive millions calls, the majority of which are about people coming into contact with dangerous or potentially dangerous substances. The rest were calls for information. These prevention tips can help you or your loved ones avoid poisonings. For more tips and information, call your local poison center at 1-800-222-1222.

For more info contact:

**Leslie Woolington**

MAFES/MSU-ES Risk Mgmt.

[LHW4@msstate.edu](mailto:LHW4@msstate.edu)

662-325-3204

**Sources:**

<https://aapcc.org>

<https://www.poisoncontrol.org>