

November 2007

RM News & Notes



**If you think someone has been poisoned, call the Poison Control Center Immediately!
1-800-222-1222**

First Aid Tips

Has the person collapsed or stopped breathing?

- Call **9-1-1** or the local emergency number immediately.

Swallowed poison, wrong medication or too much medication?

- Call **1-800-222-1222**
- Do not attempt to induce vomiting or give anything to eat or drink unless instructed to do so by the poison control center.

Inhaled poison?

- Get to fresh air immediately.
- Call **1-800-222-1222**

Poison on the skin?

- Remove any clothing touched by the poison.
- Brush off any powdered residue.
- Rinse skin with running water for 15 - 20 minutes.
- Call **1-800-222-1222**

Poison in the Eyes?

- Rinse eyes with running water for 15 - 20 minutes.
- Call **1-800-222-1222**

If you cannot remember the poison control number call 9-1-1

It is OK to "overreact"! Many poisons act quickly, leaving little time for treatment. In some cases there may not be any obvious signs of poisoning, particularly in children. A child may show vague symptoms or warning signs such as congestion, crankiness, or drowsiness. Remember, a child may not complain of symptoms and may refuse to tell what happened out of fear of being punished. If you suspect poisoning, do not wait to "see" what effect the substance will have.

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Message from the Risk Manager

Accidental poisoning can happen at any time. In fact, some of the approaching holiday activities may actually put us at increased risk. Are you doing any extra cleaning before the guests arrive? Read labels and follow instructions: combining some chemicals can cause a release of poisonous gas. Or perhaps you are overtired after an evening of festivities and you accidentally take your spouse's medication instead of your own. Young children are especially vulnerable as they tend to put everything into their mouths and there are plenty of extra things to reach for during all the family gatherings and holiday parties. Do any guests have medicine in their pockets or purses or suitcases? Are you visiting friends or relative who leave medicines and vitamins out on counters within reach of curious hands? What about the decorations? Some plants as well as lamp oil can be especially harmful. Be extra careful at events with "adult" activities such as drinking alcohol and smoking. Children tend to imitate behavior but ingesting even small amounts of alcohol or cigarette butts can prove deadly to little ones. So take the time now to review precautions and make sure you are protecting yourself and your family from this hazard.

Darlene

Safety Officer News and Notes

Children Are Most at Risk

Children are, by nature, explorers. Their lives are full of new sensations which they want to find out about. This normal curiosity can sometimes lead them into danger. Unintentional poisoning is one of the greatest of these dangers, particularly for children under the age of 5.

Childhood poisoning may be accidental, but it can still be prevented. Because it is impossible to keep your eyes on a young child 24 hours a day, protection is vital for those times when you do take your eyes away—even for a second. Don't leave medicines in a room as a reminder to take them -- write yourself a note instead. Don't carry medicines in your pocket of handbag, and don't allow your child to play with empty medicine containers. He may just end up teaching himself how to open the child proof lid!

****Be alert for repeat poisonings. Statistics show that children who swallow a poison are likely to attempt it again within one year.**

Safety Stories

There was a party at my brother's house. I was there to help with the food and mainly to watch their young daughter. She was showing out for everyone and the guests got a good laugh the first time she tried to "sneak a taste" from someone's glass. Unfortunately, this only encouraged the behavior and my brother had to request that everyone keep their drink in their hand or place it out of her reach. Even then, I had to be extra cautious and watchful as she is a very determined little girl when she wants something. We managed to make it through the evening without my niece drinking any of the leftover alcohol, but until that night, I had never even considered the fact that a small amount of alcohol could be poison to a little girl playing "grown up". I'm glad I was there to keep her out of trouble.

How can I keep my child safe?

Your best safety tactic is extreme caution. Assume all cleaning products, substances used in the workshop or garage, and beauty products are dangerous. Invest in a large medicine cabinet with a safety lock, and put it in a place which is not easily accessible to a child. Keep any household substance which you feel is dubious in this cupboard or locked away in the garage. Here are some other things you can do:

- On holiday, and staying in other people's houses, remember to keep an eye on the whereabouts of medicines and other potentially dangerous substances -- **not everyone's house is organized with crawling babies and curious toddlers in mind.**
- Be methodical in your approach to making a room-by-room list of hazardous substances. Identify all the harmful items in your household, and make sure they're clearly labeled and out of reach.
- **Don't forget the obvious.** For children under the age of six, the leading dangers are:
 - Household cleaning products. Assume that they are all dangerous. Your list should include drain cleaner, oven cleaner, toilet cleaner, dishwasher detergent, and rust remover, but there are so many that your best bet is to keep them all out of the way of your child. Even if he does not ingest them, he may spray himself with them, burning his eyes or his skin.
 - Pills and medicines. Always assume that any medicine your child takes, be it prescribed for you or for him, can be dangerous. Even vitamin supplements are fatal in large doses. Keep them locked in the cupboard.
 - Prescription drugs, especially antidepressants and time-release drugs, which have a cumulative effect. Even travel medicines are dangerous. Put them all in the locked medicine cupboard.
 - Alcohol, which many of us have in open cabinets and easily accessible to children, is an unsuspected cause of many fatal poisonings of young children. Ingestion can lead to seizures, coma and death. It doesn't take much alcohol to produce such effects. Alcohol laced products such as mouthwashes, aftershaves and colognes can also produce the same problems. Again, the best preventative would be to put such items behind locked doors.
 - Cosmetics include skin-care creams, lotions, powders, perfumes, lipsticks, fingernail and toenail polishes, eye and facial makeup, permanent waves, hair colors, hair sprays and gels, deodorants, baby products, bath oils, bubble baths, bath salts, butters and many other types of products may contain mercury and/or lead.
 - Household plants, especially Philodendron. Many garden plants are poisonous, especially Rue, Privet and Laurel berries, Yew berries, and Laburnum seeds. Holiday Alert: Holly and Mistletoe are poisonous.
 - Paint thinner and paint remover, petrol, paraffin, and metal polishes, and especially antifreeze, as it allegedly has a sweet taste. Keep them locked out of your child's way in the garage, and don't let him into the workshop unsupervised.
 - Pesticides. Lock them away.

Up Coming Events

Each program is advertised by Risk Management and is available to each employee of Columbia County and the city employees of Grovetown and Harlem. Additionally, the Defensive Driving Courses may be attended by immediate family members of employees, on a space available basis, for a nominal fee.

Pre-registration is required.

For additional information or to register contact Risk Management. 706-312-7475

Safety Review Board January 10, 2008

Defensive Driving
Course – 8 hour **November 8, 2007**
 November 9, 2007
 November 30, 2007
 January 31, 2007

Defensive Driving
Course – 4 hour

CPR/AED/First Aid January 15, 2007

County Office Closed **November 12, 2007**
 November 22, 2007
 November 23, 2007
 December 24, 2007
 December 25, 2007
 January 1, 2008
 January 21, 2008

Newsy Notes

At one time, the turkey and the bald eagle were each considered as the national symbol of America. Benjamin Franklin was one of those who argued passionately on behalf of the turkey. Franklin felt the turkey, although "vain and silly", was a better choice than the bald eagle, which he felt was "a coward".

NOVEMBER 2007

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JANUARY 2008

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Happy Thanksgiving



SOURCE: MORGUEFILE.COM