

THE YUK REPORT

Expert Poison Information 24/7

Washington Poison Center

1-800-222-1222

Fall 2006

Mr. Yuk on Speed Dial

You might have 1-800-222-1222 memorized or saved in your phone's speed dial. But, did you know hospitals across Washington State have the Poison Center on speed dial as well?

And they are not the only ones.

Fire departments, 911 dispatch centers, police officers and even veterinarians keep the Mr. Yuk Poison Helpline number on their phone lists. Many health and safety professionals have the Washington Poison Center (WPC) phone sticker or a Mr. Yuk sticker placed right on their phones!

The professionals that work to keep you and your family safe and healthy sometimes need to speak to an expert on poisons and chemicals. That is where the WPC comes in to play as part of our region's healthcare and emergency response team.

Staffed with nurses, pharmacists and other medical and science

professionals, the Poison Center's phones are answered 24/7 for the general public and medical and safety professionals. Board certified medical toxicologists (one who studies the nature and effects of poisons and their treatment) often speak one-on-one with medical or safety professionals on complex poisoning situations.

methods. Calls to the patient's medical provider will be done as necessary until the effects from the poison are no longer a concern.

The Poison Center is also ready to help in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. The center is ready with satellite phones and radios should regular phone lines

go down. Acting as the chemical information center for the State of Washington, plans are in place for Poison Center staff to communicate with hospitals, health departments and county Emergency Operations Centers to provide the expertise should the situation arise.

Did you know...

- ... nearly 40% of our calls about glow sticks happen around Halloween?
- ... every day the WPC makes about 170 follow up calls?
- ... about 500 3rd, 4th and 5th graders across the state participated in our "Mr. Yuk Means No!" poster contest?

Just like calls from the public, our involvement with the case or poison victim does not end at the one phone call. WPC staff is not waiting for the phone to ring—they are making other phones ring. Every day our staff is calling back nurses, doctors and veterinarians to check on how patients are doing. If the symptoms or patient's recovery is not what we expect it to be, our staff will suggest further treatment

So, when you call 1-800-222-1222, you are getting the experts the experts call.



From the Files

DOG TIRED

Our Lab, Sunny, had surgery and was prescribed a sedative. To get her to take the pill, I would slip it into some cheese. Being a dog, food is the key to success!

One morning, I was in a hurry getting the family ready for the day. Too many things going at once. I absent-mindedly popped a piece of cheese into my mouth. It wasn't until I saw Sunny's big brown expectant eyes that I realized ... Oh my, I drugged myself with the dog's tranquilizer!

I called the vet; I called the hospital; ... everyone was confounded; ... and then I realized it made sense to call the WPC! The staff was great. We laughed, but she was reassuring, too. She looked up the drug, and we chatted a bit realizing that I probably shouldn't drive.

Within a half hour, I was woozy and ended up sleeping most of the day feeling "dog tired." But, I was happy that the center assured me that I wasn't going to die, my stomach wasn't going to get pumped and this too shall pass!

Thanks for being there and your wonderful Mr. Yuk message. The stickers were invaluable when my daughter was little. I may have to put Mr. Yuk on the dog meds, too!

Jan S., Bellevue, WA

Make Mr. Yuk a Part of Halloween

Although Mr. Yuk would make a great costume or jack-o-lantern, we are talking more about having Mr. Yuk be a part of your family's safety checks.

Let's face it—Halloween is full of dangers. But, if you know what to look out for, Halloween can be spooky and safe at the same time.

The Hard to See

Small children should go out before dark and an adult carrying a flashlight should accompany all children and remain with them at all times. Put reflective tape on trick-or-treat bags. Trick-or-treat only in familiar, well-lit areas. Use crosswalks when possible, and do not run from between parked cars. Stay away from dogs or other animals. Glow sticks and necklaces can help to illuminate



after dark. Be careful not to break or bite glow sticks (choke hazard), but if it does happen, call the Poison Center at **1-800-222-1222**.

Costumes & Makeup

Costumes should be flame-retardant, reflective, warm and not too long (trip hazard). Masks should fit properly and have large eyeholes. Use non-toxic face paint or makeup. If any makeup is swallowed or you have trouble removing it, call the Poison Center at **1-800-222-1222**.

Unsafe Candy

Feed children before trick-or-treating to help cut the urge to snack and bring your own candy in case they do snack, so they will not eat unchecked treats. Give and accept store-bought, wrapped candy only. Carefully check all treats before allowing children to eat them. Only eat candy from original, unopened and undamaged wrappers. Throw away candy if wrappers are faded, torn or show signs of re-wrapping. For a list of normal shipment and manufacturing defects, where the candy is still safe to eat, visit www.candyusa.org. But . . .

. . . When in doubt, throw it out!



Congratulations, Kyesha Martin!

Dunlap Elementary School, Seattle



Washington State Poison Prevention Week
Poster Contest Winner

Made possible by a grant from the: **GROUP HEALTH
community
foundation**

Support Mr. Yuk

- ✓ Does your company have a workplace giving campaign? Please remember Mr. Yuk and the Washington Poison Center when filling out your form and tell your co-workers about us, too.
- ✓ The Washington Poison Center is a nonprofit, charitable organization relying on community support. To make a tax-deductible donation, send a check or money order to:

**Washington Poison Center
155 NE 100th Street, #400
Seattle, WA 98125-8011**

Or, call 1-800-572-4104 x2367 to donate by credit card.

Mr. Yuk thanks you for your help!



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