

CALIFORNIA POISON CONTROL SYSTEM (CPCS) POISON SAFETY UPDATE

Back-to-School | August 2021, Issue 1

CPCS Hotline Staff Spotlight

What is your role at CPCS and how long have you been a poison expert?

I've been a Toxicology Management Specialist for three years. I answer poison related calls from the public through our Poison Hotline, precept pharmacy students and residents, and work on poison-related research.

Tell us about yourself: I'm passionate about spreading the word about what we (CPCS) do in multiple languages.

We have such a great service, but if people don't know about us, we won't be able to assist them in poison prevention.

Some unique projects I've been involved in are Spanish Language Public Service Announcements and revision of the CPCS Poisoning and Drug Overdose reference book.

Giovanni is a Certified Specialist in Poison Information, with a Doctorate in Pharmacy and undergraduate degree in Molecular Toxicology.



"It feels really great to be part of such a wonderful, free, public resource. I also enjoy having such friendly and knowledgeable coworkers."

—Giovanni

Going Back to School?

Exposure to poisonous substances can lead to negative impacts on children's health and academic success. Learn how to prevent and safely manage poison exposure in a school setting. Visit calpoison.org/back-to-school-safety to learn more.



CPCS Poison Hotline

"I was afraid that I would be judged as a bad mom... I'm so glad that I was treated kindly and there was no judgment."

—CPCS Caller

Children are vulnerable to poison exposure. Nationally, about half of reported poisonings involve children under the age of six. Be informed of ways to keep children safe from poisoning dangers, the #1 leading cause of injury related deaths in the United States.

In 2020, our Poison Control Hotline answered over 222,000 human poison

exposure calls. Specialists in Poison Information—professionally trained pharmacists, toxicologists, nurse, poison information providers and physicians—work around the clock to provide free, immediate, high-quality emergency telephone advice for poison exposures. Call **1-800-222-1222** for any poison-related help or questions.

Guess the Poison!

HINT #1 I can't be seen, smelled, or tasted. I float in the air and can be found when fuel is burned. I can make you dizzy, faint, and give you shortness of breath.

HINT #2 Anyone can become my target, but children are especially vulnerable because they breathe faster and their developing lungs are susceptible to inflammation.

HINT #3 To avoid me during wildfire season, stay indoors and limit outdoor activities. Install devices that can detect me in your home.

WHAT AM I?

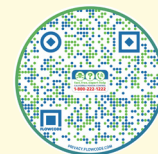


ANSWER: Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning during wildfire season

CPCS Resources

Try our new **CPCS Poison Prevention Training Program** for Community Educators

Text TIPS to 20121 for poison safety information in English and PUNTOS for Spanish.



Scan or visit <https://flow.page/calpoison> to access CPCS resources.



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