

CALIFORNIA POISON CONTROL SYSTEM

POISON SAFETY UPDATE

Summer Safety | June 2022, Issue 4

CPCS Hotline Staff Spotlight

What is your role at CPCS and how long have you been a poison expert? I have been a Toxicology Management Specialist for the California Poison Control System for five years. I answer calls from the public, as well as health care providers, with questions about potential poisonings and exposures. I have experience increasing poison awareness among health care students. I've given lectures to pharmacy and nursing students at the University of California San Francisco and the University of California Davis. These lectures help health care students utilize our poison prevention resources regardless of the field they end up in. They also help health care students pursue a future career at the Poison Center, ensuring experts in the field to assist with poison exposures in California.

Tell us about yourself: I graduated from the University of Maryland with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree and completed my pharmacy residency at the University of California Davis Medical Center. During my residency, I worked in the Intensive Care Unit, Emergency Department, and Poison Control Center and witnessed the very specialized knowledge in the unique subject area of toxicology, which fascinated me. Since then, I fell in love with the field and decided to pursue a career at the Poison Center.



Anthony has been a Toxicology Management Specialist for California Poison Control for five years and provides poison related lectures for health care students at UCSF and UC Davis.

"Hearing the relief in people's voices when I tell them that things are going to be okay. That's probably what I enjoy the most from working here." —Anthony

CPCS Poison Hotline

"Saved me a trip to the Emergency Room at 3:30 in the morning and I have this number programmed in my phone. So glad this service is around." —CPCS Caller

According to the latest data by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, poisoning was the leading cause of unintentional injury related deaths in the U.S. in 2020. Poisoning resulted in more deaths compared to other unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle traffic accidents and drowning. Nationally, a total of 87,415 people died from poisoning in 2020 across all ages, races, and gender.

The California Poison Control System is your accredited and designated poison center in California. Call our Poison Hotline at **1-800-222-1222** and speak to a Specialist in Poison Information if you have a poison related question or if you think you or someone else may have been exposed to poison. This simple phone call can help save a life.

Guess the Poison!

HINT #1 I can be a health hazard all year round, especially during the summer months when more people head outdoors.

HINT #2 I am bright, warm, and shiny. The UV (ultraviolet) rays that I beam down can potentially cause skin cancer.

HINT #3 You can apply sunscreen to help protect yourself from my harmful effects, stay in the shade, and wear protective clothing to prevent poisoning.

WHAT AM I?

ANSWER: **ung**

Summer Poison Oak Safety



Hiking during the summer? Be aware of Poison Oak, which can cause an itchy rash if you're exposed. Learn how to identify the plant, prevent exposure, and how to get help. Visit calpoison.org/topics/poison-oak to learn more.

Make a Gift



Enjoying our free CPCS services and resources? Support us by giving online. **Make a gift** today and help keep Californians safe from poison!

CPCS Resources

Scan the QR code with your phone or visit flow.page/calpoison for a variety of free CPCS resources.



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



healthed@calpoison.org calpoison.org [@CalPoison](https://www.facebook.com/CalPoison) [@PoisonInfo](https://twitter.com/PoisonInfo)