



**HELP PROTECT
YOUR FAMILY
FROM THE
DANGERS
OF POISON**

First Alert Professional Security Systems- We Care About Your Safety.

It is estimated that more than four million people are poisoned in the United States every year. As a leading provider of home security systems, we wanted to do something to reduce this alarming statistic.

Who Is First Alert Professional?



First Alert Professional manufactures electronic security systems that help protect homes against burglary and fire. These high quality systems are available only through a select group of qualified companies. Our authorized dealers have earned the right to join the First Alert Professional network because of their expertise and professionalism in providing security systems for the home.

But these dealers offer more than just security. They truly care about their customers' safety. That is why we, in cooperation with the American Association of Poison Control Centers, decided to produce this informative brochure, to help the people we meet every day prevent a poisoning incident.

Please read through the information carefully and be sure to keep it

accessible should a problem occur. By being informed, you will be better able to prevent an incident from turning into a fatal disaster.

If you decide to protect your family from crime and fire, please contact the qualified First Alert Professional in your area. This dealer will be committed to ensuring the safety of your family.

What Is a Poison?



Any substance that can cause harmful effects if used in the wrong way or in the wrong amount can be a poison! This includes medicines, chemicals, household products, the venom of certain insects and snakes, even some plants. Poisons can be absorbed into the body when swallowed, inhaled, spilled or splashed on the skin or in the eyes, or injected under the skin.

Who Can Be Poisoned?



No one is immune from poisoning, and small children are especially at risk. Children are naturally curious. They cannot tell the difference between poisonous and non-poisonous substances, and they put everything within reach into their mouths. They also imitate adults whom they see using medicines.

Older children and adults are poi-

soned by taking too much medicine or the wrong medicine, inhaling fumes at home or on the job, splashing substances into their eyes or on their skin, and being bitten or stung by an insect, snake or other animal. Since most poisonings are unintentional, preventing them means taking some precautions. The information contained in this booklet is intended to increase your awareness of potential poisons in and around your home. We want to alert you to especially dangerous poison hazards and teach precautions which can help prevent poisonings. You'll also learn the best course of action to take if a poisoning does occur. Keep this information nearby for quick reference in case you or a family member become a poisoning victim.

How can I prevent poisonings in my home?



- Store all medicines and household products in the original containers.
- Use child-resistant packages for medicines and potentially dangerous household products. Encourage older adults who spend time with children to use child-resistant packaging also. Remember that these packages and caps are NOT child-proof!
- Lock medicines and products out

of sight and reach of children.

- Teach young children to ask an adult before putting things in their mouths.
- When giving or taking medicine, be sure to read the label each time.
- Follow product label warnings about not mixing different products, ventilating the area, or wearing gloves.

What Are Some Dangerous Household Poisons?



▲ **MEDICINES OF ALL KINDS**

Those taken by older adults for chronic health problems, e.g. heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, can be especially dangerous. Iron pills and pain relievers can be very dangerous in overdose situations. Cough and cold remedies can also cause problems when children take too much.



▲ **CLEANING PRODUCTS**

Common household cleaning products are the number one cause of unintentional poisonings of children. Those that are especially dangerous are ones that can cause chemical burns - drain opener, toilet bowl cleaner, laundry detergent.



▲ **COSMETICS AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS**

Permanent wave neutralizers and hair straighteners can cause burns. Mouthwash and perfume contain alcohol, dangerous for children who drink them. Some nail care products can also be poisonous.



▲ **PESTICIDES, INCLUDING LAWN AND GARDEN CHEMICALS**

Many chemicals used to control insects, rodents and weeds are as toxic to humans as they are to their intended victims. When ingested or inhaled in small amounts, most are capable of producing illness. Many of these products are poisonous if swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through the skin. Avoid using products that require leaving powder or pellets in areas where pets or children may have access to them.



▲ **HOUSEHOLD AND AUTO MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES**

Gasoline, kerosene, motor oil and paint thinner are dangerous because they are easily coughed into the lungs when someone tries to swallow them. Antifreeze and windshield washer solution are dangerous to swallow and their sweet taste makes them appealing to children and pets.



▲ **CARBON MONOXIDE**

Carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless gas that can be produced by car and truck exhaust leaks, improperly working furnaces, gas-fueled hot water heaters, wood stoves, or by burning charcoal indoors. It also can be produced by attempting to heat a home with a gas stove or oven. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning may resemble the flu and include headache, nausea, vomiting and drowsiness.



▲ **FOOD POISONING**

Storing food at the wrong temperature, not scrubbing knives, utensils and cutting boards after cutting raw meat and poultry, and not carefully washing hands before handling or preparing food can cause food poisoning. Symptoms of food poisoning may

Follow these food safety tips:

Counter tops, utensils and hands should be washed with warm, soapy water prior to and after food preparation.

- *Thaw meat and poultry in the refrigerator, not at room temperature.*
- *Avoid leaving perishable food out of the refrigerator for more than two hours.*
- *Do not use canned foods with bulging lids or cracks.*
- *Thoroughly cook all meat, poultry, seafood and eggs.*
- *Keep picnic foods in an ice chest or cooler, out of direct sunlight, until serving time.*

vary, but often include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Symptoms may begin soon or may not occur for more than a day or two.



▲ **ALCOHOL**

Alcohol found in beverages, mouthwash, perfumes and aftershave lotions, is a dangerous poison for children. Small amounts can slow down their breathing and heart rate, cause seizures, coma, or even even kill them. Since children imitate adults, parties can pose a real hazard. Watch children closely at adult parties and clear the “empty” glasses and cans immediately. Use child resistant closures on mouthwash bottles. Lock alcoholic beverages, mouthwash, and other alcohol-containing products out of sight and reach of children.



▲ **PLANTS AND WILD MUSHROOMS**

Some indoor and outdoor plants can pose a hazard to curious youngsters. Berries and wild mushrooms pose the greatest outdoor hazards to curious children. Philodendron and dieffenbachia (dumbcane) are indoor plants that can cause pain and swelling in children and pets who nibble on them. Adults are poisoned by eating plants and mushrooms they have mistaken for edible species.

Teach young children to ask before putting things into their mouths.

Never eat wild mushrooms unless they have been identified by an expert. Learn the correct botanical names of your house plants and garden plants and trees. Contact your poison center for a list of poisonous and non-poisonous plants common to your area of the country.



▲ **SEASON CHANGES AND HOLIDAYS**

Specific times of the year bring a variety of potential poisons. Be alert around Easter and Halloween because chocolate candy is poisonous to dogs. Before allowing children to indulge in Halloween “treats” inspect them to be sure that wrappers are intact. Discard non-commercial treats - fruits, homemade goods, etc. During winter holidays avoid decorating with holly or mistletoe berries, and be sure that gifts intended for older children and adults are placed where small children can't reach them.

What Do I Need to Keep at Home for Poisoning First Aid?



Have the poison center emergency phone number on your phone with other emergency numbers. You can find the number inside the front of your telephone book with other

emergency numbers. You can also call to get phone stickers and local poison prevention information.

Have ipecac syrup handy, but never use it unless the poison center tells you to!



Sometimes the poison center will tell you to give ipecac syrup after a poisoning because it causes vomiting. Nothing else will work safely and effectively. Purchase ipecac syrup without a prescription at the pharmacy, one bottle for each child under the age of six.

What Is a Poison Center?

Poison centers are emergency telephone services. The doctors, nurses and pharmacists at your poison center are experts in the treatment of all kinds of poison emergencies. Call the poison center immediately after a poisoning! You will get immediate treatment advice. Most of the time, the problem can be handled on the spot, right over the telephone. The specialist in poison information will tell you how to treat the poisoning, then stay in touch by phone to be sure that everything is going well. If you do need to go to a hospital, the poison center will call ahead to tell the doctors and nurses how to treat you.

Your poison center can also send you telephone stickers with the emer-

gency phone number and some poison prevention information. Find the poison center number in the front of your telephone book with other emergency numbers. Call to get some phone stickers and information before you need them!

“What Should I Do if a Poisoning Occurs?”



If the victim is unconscious, not breathing or having seizures, call 911 or the emergency ambulance number immediately.

- **SWALLOWED POISONS**

If a chemical has been swallowed, give a glass of water to the victim. If a medicine has been swallowed, do not give liquids. Call the poison center immediately.

- **INHALED POISON**

Move the victim to fresh air if you can do so safely. Call the poison center.

- **POISONS IN THE EYE**

Flush the eye with plenty of water for 15 to 20 minutes. You can do this by pouring water from a pitcher held a few inches from the eye or by using running water from the faucet. Another way is to stand in the shower and blink, with the face held up to the water. Then, call the poison center.

- **POISONS ON THE SKIN**

Rinse the skin with plenty of running water for 15 to 20 minutes. Remove contaminated clothing. Call the poison center.

Facts About Poison

- It is estimated that more than four million people are poisoned in the United States each year.
- Children under the age of six account for about 60 percent of all poisonings.
- Most poisonings can be treated safely at home, over the telephone, if the poison center is called immediately.

Checklist

Be sure that the following especially dangerous poisons are locked up out of sight and reach of children.

KITCHEN

- dishwasher detergent
- drain opener
- oven cleaner
- medicines
- vitamins and iron pills
- furniture polish

AROUND THE HOUSE

- alcohol
- tobacco products
- pesticides (ant traps, insecticides, mouse and rat poison)
- lamp oil
- hobby and craft supplies

- window cleaner

BEDROOM

- medicines
- perfume and aftershave

BATHROOM

- medicines, mouthwash and mouth rinse
- perfume and aftershave lotion
- rubbing alcohol
- toilet bowl and tile cleaner, hair straightener
- permanent wave solutions
- hair remover
- nail polish remover, and nail glue

- remover

LAUNDRY

- detergents
- stain removers

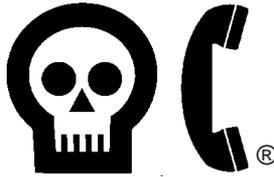
GARAGE/OUTDOOR AREAS

- gasoline
- kerosene
- motor oil
- antifreeze
- windshield washer solution
- garden products
- paint thinners
- pool chemicals
- rust removers
- heavy duty cleaning products

This booklet was produced by



in cooperation with the
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The information in this booklet is intended for reference only, and is not meant to be used in place of contacting your local Poison Control Center, ambulance, hospital, or other medical emergency sources.