

# About the California Poison Control System

A single toll-free 800 number is available to all areas of California. By calling **1-800-222-1222** anywhere in California, you can obtain emergency information on:

- Swallowing poison
- Eye or skin irritation from toxic substances
- Inhalation of noxious fumes or vapors
- Animal, insect, snake and spider bites
- Food or mushroom poisoning
- Drug reactions
- Attempted suicides or drug overdoses

Calls are handled quickly, accurately, professionally and free-of-charge all over the state 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For decades, there have been many poison centers in California, each with its own phone number and individual way of providing service for a small area.

In 1997, a new system for providing uniform poison services for the entire state was developed. The **University of California San Francisco, School of Pharmacy - Department of Clinical Pharmacy** provides administrative services for the California Poison Control System (CPCS). The CPCS combined the services of four existing poison centers:

- the **Sacramento Division** located at the **University of California, Davis, Medical Center**
- the **San Francisco Division** located at **San Francisco General Hospital**
- the **Fresno/Madera Division** located at **Children's Hospital Central California**
- the **San Diego Division** located at the **University of California, San Diego, Medical Center**

Trained health care professionals, who have many years of valuable experience handling poison cases, staff all answering sites. The sites use identical telephones, computers, computer programs and databases, recording systems and automatic call distribution systems. They use uniform protocols and guidelines and have identical health education materials. The result is uniform quality poison information for the entire state.

### **We have five toll free help lines**

Public Hotline, Medical Consultation Line, 9-1-1, Speech and Hearing Impaired TTY Line, and Public Education Line.

### **And many special services**

24-hour interpreter service for over 100 languages, HazMat, Public Health and Pesticide Surveillance, Company Contracts, and more.

**California Poison Control System**  
**1-800-222-1222** *Anytime, Anyplace in California*  
**Home | Public | HCP | About | Orders**

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Disclaimer: This web site is designed to be informational and educational. Under no circumstance is this web site meant to replace the expert advice of a qualified poison specialist or physician. In the event of a poison emergency, call the nearest poison center immediately by dialing 1-800-222-1222 or contact 9-1-1 emergency services.