



## Poison Centers Celebrate National Poison Prevention Week, March 18 -24

Spring 2007

### 1 - WHAT IS NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK (NPPW)?

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy, designated the third week of March as National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW). During NPPW, the Florida Poison Information Center Network (FPICN), and other national organizations mobilize resources and coordinate activities to increase awareness of the dangers of accidental poisoning, and to teach poison prevention.



### 2 - Is there a theme for NPPW?

Yes, the national theme is “Children Act Fast ... So Do Poisons!”

This theme is a reminder for parents and caretakers to remain alert, especially when chemicals and medicines are being used.

In 2006, the FPICN received over 51,000 poison related calls involving children under the age of six years. Children act fast, so adults must make sure that all chemicals and medicines are locked up, and placed out of sight and reach of young children at all times.

### 3 - HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN NPPW?

The FPICN coordinates statewide NPPW activities, provides educational programs and distributes a variety of literature. If you wish to learn more, please call your regional poison center at **1-800-222-1222**. Below are some suggestions for NPPW:



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- Conduct poison prevention programs for children.
- Distribute poison prevention literature.
- Set up and man displays and exhibits.
- Sponsor a poster contest.
- Conduct a media campaign.
- Participate in local/regional NPPW activities.
- Create and distribute flyers within your community.

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**Florida Poison Information Centers  
Administrative Lines:  
Jacksonville (904) 244-4465  
Tampa (813) 844-7044  
Miami (305) 585-5250**

# POISON CENTERS CELEBRATE NPPW

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## 4 - HOW CAN I PREVENT POISONINGS?

- ✓ Use child resistant caps.
- ✓ Always measure medicine dose with the proper dispensing tool – don't guess.
- ✓ Never call medicine candy.
- ✓ Place purses out of sight and reach of young children.
- ✓ Store products and food in separate areas.
- ✓ Keep products and medicines in their original containers.
- ✓ Know the names of your plants and which ones are poisonous.
- ✓ Do not mix cleaning products or chemicals.
- ✓ Consider using less toxic cleaners.
- ✓ Teach children to always ask **FIRST!**

## NPPW activities



The Florida Poison Information Center Network (FPICN) is gearing up with plans to celebrate National Poison Prevention Week. All three centers that make up the FPICN ... Jacksonville, Tampa and Miami ... will visit Tallahassee during March 19 & 20 to inform our legislators about poison prevention awareness and how FPICN saves taxpayers millions of dollars in health care costs.

In addition, the Florida Poison Information Center – Jacksonville (FPIC/JAX) is planning a Pesticide Awareness Fair for March 22, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., and has adopted the theme, “Put Pesticides in Their Place.” The Fair will focus on pesticide safety, encouraging homeowners to keep safe as they get ready for spring, lawn maintenance, gardening, spraying, etc.

FPIC/JAX is also partnering with Healthy Jacksonville 2010 Environmental Healthy Coalition in their Community Kick-Off and Pesticide Awareness Campaign. A brief program will be held at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Learning Resource Center at Shands Jacksonville campus, with special guests from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Environmental Bureau of Community Health, and FPIC/JAX. Other healthcare professionals, community leaders and elected officials have also been invited to attend the program.

The Florida Poison Information Center – Miami (FPIC/MIAMI) is partnering with the City of Miami in a Health Fair at their downtown headquarters on March 22, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Health Fair will be followed with a Hazardous Household Waste Collection Event sponsored jointly by the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County. The City of Miami has also agreed to place the Poison Center logo and website information on their City Net, which reaches all City of Miami employees and residents who access the website. The television program, *Inside Miami*, will feature a segment on Poison Prevention and the Poison Center. The City of Hialeah, a largely Hispanic population just to the east of Miami, is distributing Poison Center materials through out all city libraries and parks programs during March and is including the 1-800-222-1222 number in their city-sponsored calendar. Hialeah will also feature a program on “Poison Pointers” and an article targeted to seniors through its bilingual newsletter, “Que Pasa Hialeah.”

### Need More Information?

\* [www.fpfcn.org](http://www.fpfcn.org) (FPICN website)  
\* <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

\* [www.poisonprevention.org](http://www.poisonprevention.org)  
\* <http://paipm.cas.psu.edu/about.html>