



California Poison Control Issues Statement on Japan's Nuclear Reactors' Radioactive Material and Danger to U.S. Residents

As Japan struggles to control the crisis at stricken nuclear power plants after the recent earthquake, U.S. residents, and especially those in California and other western states, have been calling California Poison Control's 800 number with questions about protection from radiation fallout. Questions range from how to purchase iodine supplements, potassium iodine and other medications that are used to prevent radiation sickness to how much should be ingested.

California Poison Control Director, San Diego Division, Lee Cantrell, Pharm D., DABAT, Professor of Clinical Pharmacy, University of California San Francisco School of Pharmacy, cautions the public to remain calm.

"State and Federal radiation experts have concluded that the situation is currently not a health threat to the United States and continue to monitor closely events in Japan and California." Dr. Cantrell said. "We are watching with concern just like everyone else, but we ask that the public refrain from ingesting any drugs that are used for radiation incidents." He cautions that being overly zealous can lead to harmful effects. Dr. Cantrell adds, "The public is urged to call 1-800-222-1222 with any questions."

Updates will be provided by California Poison Control. There are many ways the public can keep up to date on poison issues: subscribe to updates on cell phones by texting the word TIPS to 69866; follow on Twitter @poisoninfo; on Facebook at California Poison Control; and on the website at www.calpoison.org.

Media contact: Susan Tellem, RN, APR, 310-613-3504, stellem@tellem.com