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Fast Facts

- The California Poison Control System was formed in 1997, inheriting the resources and expertise of California's 25-year history of providing poison control services in the state. Since then, the system has provided the public and health professionals with treatment advice and referral assistance on exposure to poisonous, toxic and hazardous substances.
- The California Poison Control System operates three toll-free, emergency hotlines: (1) A public hotline for poison information and advice; (2) A medical consultation hotline for health professionals; and (3) A 911 hotline for emergency dispatchers and fire and police personnel.
- The California Poison Control System has interpreting services available for more than 100 languages and a toll free, TTY help line for use by the hearing and speech impaired.
- All hotlines operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and are answered by highly trained and specialized staff members, including physicians, pharmacists, nurses and poison information providers.
- The California Poison Control System managed more than 1.8 million poison control cases in the last six years alone. More than 50 percent of these cases involved children age 5 and younger.
- The California Poison Control System managed more than 306,000 poison cases in 2002.
- More than 61,000 emergency room and physician office visits were averted in 2002 because of immediate service available from the California Poison Control System.
- With the help of the California Poison Control System, 78 percent of poison exposures are treated at home preventing unnecessary and costly trips to hospital emergency rooms. This translates into a \$55 million savings in health care costs for California each year.
- The California Poison Control System has four highly integrated poison control sites hosted by UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, San Francisco General Hospital, Children's Hospital Central California in Fresno/Madera, and UC San Diego Medical Center.
- The California Poison Control System is administered through the University of California at San Francisco, School of Pharmacy and responsible to the California Emergency Medical Services Authority.