



## CHCHD News

*Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department*

---

Contact: Abena Williams, PIO

Phone: (423) 209-8238

Email: [AbenaW@HamiltonTN.gov](mailto:AbenaW@HamiltonTN.gov)

Website: <http://health.hamiltontn.org/>

For Immediate Release

March 21, 2011

### **National Poison Prevention Week; Learn how to prevent accidental poisoning**

Chattanooga, TN- Nearly 83 percent of poison exposures are unintentional, according to the American Association of Poison Control Centers. U.S. poison centers receive 1 call every 12.7 seconds.

"Last year, Hamilton County residents called the poison control hotline 5399 times. About 75 percent of those poisonings were resolved safely over the phone," said Carleena Angwin, public health educator at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department. "The poison control hotline offers immediate assistance in case of accidental poisoning. Knowing what to do during an emergency saves time, a possible trip to the hospital, and more importantly it can help save a life," said Angwin.

Since approximately 90 percent of poisonings happen at home, the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department reminds individuals that reviewing the home checklist below is the best way to avoid accidental poisoning.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, certain kinds of poisonings are common among specific age groups. Older adults specifically need to be aware of the poisoning risks involved with taking prescription medications, while children are commonly poisoned by cosmetics, personal care or cleaning products, pest killers, and plants.

#### Poison prevention tips:

- Keep household products and medications locked up and out of reach of small children.
- Keep products in their original containers. Do not use food containers to store household cleaners and other chemicals or products.
- Enter the free Poison Help Hotline number, 1-800-222-1222, in your home phone or cell phone.
- Inspect your home for peeling paint or surfaces with lead-based paint.
- Install a carbon monoxide alarm with fresh batteries in every sleeping area and floor of your home.

The Poison Help Hotline, 1-800-222-1222, will put you in contact with professionals that offer fast, free and confidential help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For more information and prevention tips, visit [www.tnpoisoncenter.org](http://www.tnpoisoncenter.org) or <http://health.hamiltontn.org/>.