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Illinois Poison Center Organizes 24-Hour Blog-A-Thon

Initiative highlights a “day in the life” of nation’s oldest poison center

CHICAGO (March 19, 2015) – In honor of [Illinois Poison Prevention Month](#), and to raise continued awareness of potentially harmful substances, the Illinois Poison Center (IPC) will publish hourly [blog](#) updates today representing the calls that IPC experts answer every day. The posts will begin at 7 a.m., covering the overnight 12 a.m.-7 a.m. shift, and continue on the hour throughout the course of the day.

Calls handled include a variety of exposures, including prescription and over-the-counter medication overdoses, cleaning product ingestions, dermal and ocular exposures, insect bites and others.

The IPC’s team of expert professionals answers hundreds of calls each day, providing Illinois individuals, families and health care workers with life-saving treatment advice and general information on potentially harmful substances. IPC experts first held a blog-a-thon in early 2010—a post which remains the blog’s most popular to this day, generating more than 120,000 views.

“Itemizing just 24 hours’ worth of calls really highlights the significant role that the IPC continues to play in protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of all Illinoisans,” said IPC Director Carol DesLauriers, PharmD, DABAT. “What better way to mark the fifth anniversary of our most popular post than to examine how things have changed over the years, and to give the public a better understanding of how many people are affected by poisonings?”

As in 2010, evening remains the busiest time of day for the IPC, approximately 25 percent of calls come from health care professionals seeking treatment advice and information, 90 percent of calls from the public can be treated at the site of exposure, and the majority of calls from the public are regarding children age five and under.

Changes in the 2015 post reflect the introduction of products and substances that either did not exist five years ago, or the rise in those that had not yet become popular, such as laundry pods, e-cigarettes and synthetic drugs.

“This year’s blog-a-thon not only highlights that the IPC is a busy place, equipped and happy to help each of our 80,000 annual callers, but also demonstrates that whatever toxic trend next hits the market, we are more than ready to handle it,” added DesLauriers.

The 24/7 IPC helpline is completely confidential and open to all Illinoisans. Details of calls have been changed to protect callers’ and patients’ identities but are representative of the types and frequency of calls that IPC experts answer at the corresponding hours on any given day.

To participate in the blog-a-thon, please visit the IPC’s [blog](#) or [Facebook page](#).

For more information on the Illinois Poison Center, please visit illinoispoisoncenter.org.

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*The **Illinois Poison Center** is a nonprofit health service that provides the people of Illinois with comprehensive and trusted information and treatment advice on potentially harmful substances via a free, confidential 24-hour helpline staffed by specially trained physicians, nurses and pharmacists.*