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FIRE DEPARTMENT WANTS RESIDENTS TO BECOME EDUCATED ON POISONS DURING NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK

Glendale, Ariz. -- In honor of Poison Prevention Week which takes place March 17-23, the Glendale Fire Department is asking everyone to educate themselves about poisons, particularly ones that exist in most households. Some very common household items are extremely poisonous and they are within children's reach every single day.

A poison is any substance that when absorbed through the nose, mouth, eyes and skin, can cause injury, illness and even death. In this day and age, poisons come in all shapes, sizes, colors and smells. Cosmetics, cleaning and laundry products, automotive products, gardening supplies, pesticides, gas and other types of fuels, and pool products are just a few examples of poisons. Some companies even market their products to look as inviting as possible so you'll buy them; including making their products look like grocery items.

Poison centers average 1 call every 14 seconds and over 50% of those calls are for children under the age of 6 that came in contact with some type of poison. The most common poison exposures for children ages 6 and under are cosmetics and hygiene products, cleaning products and analgesics like acetaminophen and Ibuprofen. For a child, determining which items are poisonous and which items are not is extremely difficult. Younger children are known to put everything in their mouth and it doesn't help when cleaning products smell like oranges and vitamins look like gummy bears.

Please be aware of all the dangerous poisons found in and around your residence. Here are some tips from the Glendale Fire Department to help everyone stay safe:

- Only buy products with child-resistant caps. Remember, child-resistant does not mean child-proof. Children can still open these types of caps.
- Do not take medications in front of children. Children often imitate parents and grandparents and may attempt to take the medication if they get a hold of it.
- Keep all cleaners, poisons and medications in a locked cabinet.
- Do not place any products in cabinets that a child can reach. One example of this is placing products under the kitchen sink. Children can learn to open these cabinets, even if they have child-resistant latches installed on them.

- Once you are done using cleaner or medication, put cap back on properly and tight.
- Never place any type of poison in an old food or drink container. Someone could mistake it to be something edible and consume it.
- Dispose of all expired medications by taking them to your local pharmacy. Expired medication can still be potent harmful if a child consumed them.
- When purchasing products, look for products that have a bittering agent. The goal of a bittering agent is to get a child to stop consuming a product if they place it in their mouth.
- After finishing household chores or projects, properly dispose of all cleaners, rags, fuels and any other products that might have been used.
- If someone comes in contact with or ingests a poison, call 911. After you call 911, if the person that was exposed to the poison is not having a seizure, unconscious or stopped breathing, call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222. Almost 80% of all poison exposures can be treated at home but it is always best to have the paramedics en route!

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