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### **Palmetto Poison Center Observes National Poison Prevention Week**

The Palmetto Poison Center invites the public to join them in observing National Poison Prevention Week, which begins on March 19, 2023. The Palmetto Poison Center provides services to over 5 million residents in all 46 counties of South Carolina. Services are free, confidential, and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Each year more than 2 million calls are received at Poison Centers nationwide. Calling a Poison Center is faster and more accurate than an internet search. On average, 90% of poisonings happen in American homes each year, and more than 70% of people who call a Poison Center get the help they need right where they are—saving the cost of a trip to a doctor or hospital.

The Palmetto Poison Center receives approximately 31,000 calls per year. While more than half of these calls involve issues with children, poisonings can happen at any age. Additional examples of calls may include older adult medication errors, chemical exposures at home or on the job site, teenagers taking unknown or known substances intentionally, bee stings, and much more.

We can prevent poisonings within our state by following these poison prevention tips:

- Keep all household products and medicines locked up and out of sight/reach of children and vulnerable adults.
- Use child resistant packaging properly by closing the container securely and storing immediately after use.
- When any product is in use, keep it in sight. Walking away even briefly can lead to a poisoning.
- Keep all items in their original containers.
- Read the label before using any product or medicine. Dose instructions are not suggestions, they are safety guidelines.
- Avoid taking medicine in front of children, they love to copy adults.
- Talk to your teenager about the risk of taking medicine or substances intentionally or accepting these items from someone they don't know.
- Vulnerable adults should be supervised as well to avoid poison related injuries.

To contact the Palmetto Poison Center, call **1-800-222-1222**. Please visit their website at [poison.sc.edu](http://poison.sc.edu) for additional resources and free materials. Follow the center on Facebook [@PalmettoPoisonCenter](https://www.facebook.com/PalmettoPoisonCenter).

