UP AND AWAY WITH POISONS
A letter from the Connecticut Poison Control Center

If someone gets a poison in or on their body, call the Connecticut Poison Control Center right away. Don't guess, be sure. Call 1-800-222-1222. Poison specialists who are doctors, nurses, and pharmacists answer the hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Callers get immediate treatment advice - it's free and confidential. The poison center takes calls in all languages (we simply get a live interpreter on the line) and from relay services and our TDD line (1-866-218-5372) for deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

A poisoning can happen if a product or medicine is used in the wrong way, the wrong amount, or by the wrong person. A poison can enter the body through the mouth, skin, eyes, or nose. Potential poisons include prescription medication, over-the-counter medication, herbals and natural supplements, carbon monoxide, plants and berries, household cleaners, automotive products, pesticides, button batteries, and many others.

Most poisonings happen to children less than 6 years old. Curious children often take a lick, taste or touch of something but tend to not suffer lasting effects. They are most likely to get into household cleaners, cosmetic and personal products, and medicines. Adults, on the other hand are not so lucky. Adults die from prescription painkillers more than from motor vehicle crashes. In fact, in Connecticut, poisoning is the leading cause of injury death.

The Connecticut Poison Control Center has been serving Connecticut for over 50 years. Our mission is to enhance and protect the public health by providing optimized toxicology-related patient care, information and education for all people of the State of Connecticut as well as their present and future healthcare providers. Check out our website poisoncontrol.uchc.edu for more information on poisons, interactive games, educational materials, prevention tips and more!

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Kevin Borrup wrote this comic series to help educate children and parents on childhood safety issues while still having fun.

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Mr. and Mrs. B, we are almost finished.

You girls have done such a great job cleaning up the garage. Thank you.

You're welcome Mrs. B. We wanted to thank you for helping us in the community garden last year.
Our grandkids will be staying with us for a week while their parents are away. Now, we'll have a place to store their bicycles.

Glad we could help. How old are your grandkids?

They are two, six, and nine years old.

Wow, you have your work cut out for you. I have cousins that age and they get into everything.

What do you mean?

Mr. B, it's just that kids that age are learning incredibly fast so they are very curious.

Yeah, they are natural born explorers.
It's been a long time since we've had kids in the house, do we need to do anything special?

If you want we'd be happy to take a look around and give you some pointers, you know just the kinds of things that my Aunt does for my little cousins.

We would appreciate that, come on in.
How many safety hazards can you spot?

Oh my...
Grace, do you see anything we need to change?

I'm sorry Mrs. B but I don't know where to start. When are your grandkids coming?

They'll be here in about thirty minutes.

What!? We need some help if we are going to get this place ready.

I'm going to text Captain Super Safe.

860-263-9855

Plz hlp.
SOS @ ms. B's
Who’s Captain Super Safe?

He knows everything about safety and he wears a cape like a super hero.

We definitely need a super hero.

DING DONG

He’s here!

Hello Grace, hi Julie. What’s the situation?

Mr. and Mrs. B are expecting their grandkids in less than thirty minutes and they want to make their home safe.
Let’s get to work.

I’ll clear the stairs so that nobody trips on anything. A fall down the stairs could lead to a serious injury.

That TV looks like it could fall right over. I’ll put it on top of that low table in the corner instead.

Good idea Julie. Placing the TV on a low sturdy base will help prevent it from falling on anyone.

What can we do Captain Super Safe?

Follow me. I think we better talk about the pill bottles in your bathroom.
See, all your pills are here where anyone can reach them. You need to put your pills up and away, and out of sight.

I keep some medicine in a high cabinet in the kitchen. Would that be a good place to store the pill bottles?

Great idea, let’s go to the kitchen.

They should be out of the way in here.
You have a lot of old pill bottles. Your old unused pills are a possible poison. People should know that taking pills not meant for them, or taking too many pills, could make them sick, or even something worse.

You can bring pills to a drug takeback event in your community. Check with your town to find out when the next event will be held. You can also throw away pills by mixing them in with your household trash.

How do I get rid of the ones I don’t need?

Finally, if you need to get rid of pills and you don’t know what else to do, you can flush most medicines down the toilet. You can always check with Poison Control by calling 1-800-222-1222.

Thanks. Let's see how the girls are doing.
Can you spot the three remaining poison hazards?

You two have done a great job in making Mr. and Mrs. B’s place safe. I see just three more poison hazards we need to take care of.
We forgot to put away the cleaning supplies.

I’ll put them away here.

I see the second poison hazard. If swallowed, button batteries can get stuck in the throat or in your intestines, causing burns, bleeding, or something worse.

I found the third poison hazard. My purse by the couch has a pill bottle in it, and even my lipstick could be hazardous to a child. I’m going to put my purse up and away, and out of reach.
They’re here!

Today you two really made a difference.

It's easy once you learn about hazards and what to do about them.
Taking a look at page 4, find all the hazards listed below. Match each hazard to the correct danger type, drawing a line to connect them. More than one hazard may be connected to each danger type.

**HAZARD**
1. No battery in smoke detector.
2. Button batteries within reach.
3. Edge of carpet turned up.
4. Too many plugs in electrical outlet.
5. Bottles of cleaning supplies within reach.
6. Mop bucket full of water.
7. Pills within reach.
8. Cluttered stairs.
9. No screen on fireplace.
10. Lipstick in purse.

**DANGER TYPE**
- *FIRE/BURN*
- *DROWNING*
- *POISON*
- *FALLS*

**What is a poison?**
A poison is any medicine or product that hurts you if used in the wrong amount, by the wrong person or in the wrong way. Poisons can get into and on your body through your eyes, skin, mouth, nose and lungs. Most poisonings happen in the home and to children under the age of 6.

**Where can poisons be found?**
Poisons are everywhere! They can be in every room of the house - basements, garages, kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms, yards, purses and even diaper bags.

**What are some common household poisons?**
Medicines & vitamins, cleaning products, cosmetics, perfume & aftershave, mouthwash, glue, paint, alcohol, gardening products, cigarettes, plants, batteries, toothpaste, mothballs, nail polish and remover, bleach, gasoline, and motor oil. These are a few examples of poisons. More poisons exist and we could not possibly list them all.

**How can poisonings be prevented?**
- Put all poisons out of reach of children.
- Make sure to keep products in their original containers.
- Never refer to medicine as "candy" to get a child to take it.
- Keep the poison center number (1-800-222-1222) near your telephone and program it into your cell phone in case of emergency.

**What do I do if I think someone has been poisoned?**
Call the poison control number (1-800-222-1222) if you suspect someone has been poisoned, but be sure to call 911 first if the person is unconscious, having seizures, or not breathing.

Provided by the Connecticut Poison Control Center

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