

MARCH 2026

THE POISON PREVENTION SCRIPT

The Plants are Blooming and the Animals are Moving

Its spring in Arizona and that means the plants are blooming and the desert critters are becoming more active. As the weathers becomes warmer and we head into the spring season, now is the time of year when our center starts to see an uptick in bites/stings and plant exposures. Keep reading to learn more about plant safety and bites/stings prevention!

Annual Report

We recently published our 2025 Annual Report. This report summarizes the experiences of our center in 2025, including information on our most common calls, public education efforts, research and media presence. The report can be accessed on our [website](#).

We are expanding our social media!

We are excited to announce that we have now have [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages dedicated to providing information in Spanish. If you know anyone who would benefit from our information in Spanish, please spread the word!

In this issue:

Spring Safety: Plants and Bites/Stings

National Poison Prevention Week

In the Community: Safety First Saturday & Tucson Festival of Books

Staff Spotlight: Jenn Lafferty, CPhT

ARIZONA
Poison and Drug
Information Center



 1-800-222-1222



Spring Safety: Plants and Desert Critters

We are nearing spring and that means the desert is coming alive! You may have already seen several of our desert plants blooming and critters enjoying the warming weather. As people are spending more time outdoors this time of year, we start seeing an increase in plant exposures and bites and stings. Here are some tips to help keep you safe!

Plant Safety

- Make sure you know the names of plants in and around your home. This helps in cases of an exposure so you can tell Poison Control what kind of plant a person was exposed to. You can contact a local nursery to help you correctly identify plants.
- Flowers and vibrant colors can entice children. Teach children to never touch or eat plants. If you have indoor plants, keep them up and out of children's reach.
- Several indoor and outdoor plants are toxic to pets, too. Keep indoor plants out of pet's reach. Monitor pets while outdoors to ensure they do not have a taste of any plants.
- Remove all mushrooms from your yard. Only trained experts can identify edible mushrooms.

Bites and Stings Safety

- Always watch where you place your hands and feet. Critters can often be found among debris piles, in sheds, or among bushes. Avoid stepping or reaching into/around something if you do not have full visibility.
- If you are outdoors while it is dark, always use a flashlight to light your path. This can help you avoid accidentally stepping on something like a rattlesnake.
- Always wear shoes when walking around outdoors. If you are working outside wear outdoor gloves, closed-toe shoes, and long pants.
- Leave animals alone! Our desert critters do not intentionally bite or sting, they will only do so if they feel that they are in danger. If you encounter an animal, take several steps away.

For more information:



For more information about poisonous plants and bites/sting safety visit our website:

azpoison.com





National Poison Prevention Week

National Poison Prevention Week is around the corner! Celebrated every year during the the third week of March, National Poison Prevention Week focuses on increasing awareness about poison center services, the risks of poisonings at any age and promoting safety habits to prevent a poisoning from happening. Poisonings are one of the leading causes of injury and injury-related deaths in the United States, knowing about prevention habits and poison center services can help save a life.

There are many differnt things you can do to raise awareness about poison safety and prevention. To help raise awareness, we challenge you tell at least three friends about poison center services and have them save the number, 1-800-222-1222, to their phone!



In the Community: Safety First Saturday at Tucson Mall

Spring is a busy time for our educators as they participate in several health fairs and travel to various locations to give presentations.

Last weekend our educators participated in Safety First Saturday (pictured). The event was hosted by Tucson Medical Center and Tucson Fire Department. We provided bites/stings education and had a couple of critters on display. We had a great time educating people about our desert critters.

Coming up, you can catch us at the Tucson Festival of Books on March 14th and 15th. We will be in the Science City section of the festival under the Science of You tent. See you there!





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<https://azpoison.com/education-outreach/poison-prevention-script>

Staff Spotlight: Jenn Lafferty, CPhT



Jenn Lafferty, CPhT has been with the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center for two years now and has been a Certified Pharmacy Technician for 14 years. Jenn has pharmacy experience in many settings including hospital, retail, clinical and now learning the unique role of Poison Information Provider (PIP). Through her role at the poison center she has been able to learn a new side of pharmacy and toxicology. She enjoys helping patients who have questions or concerns about everyday substances, insect bites and stings including rattlesnake bites and the after care that goes into helping patients who have been bitten.