JULY 2025

THE POISON PREVENTION SCRIPT

Poison Prevention While Traveling

Poisonings don't take a vacation! In fact, the risk of poisoning can increase while traveling due to various reasons.

While traveling, our daily routines are disrupted, we may be in unfamiliar environments, and things like medications and cosmetic/personal care products are stored differently.

Additionally, when traveling to new places you may be exposed to venomous critters and poisonous plants that you wouldn't otherwise encounter at home.

All of these factors contribute to an increased risk for poisoning or envenomation. Continue reading to learn about what you can do to prevent a mishap from happening during your next trip.



In this issue:

Poison prevention While Traveling: Safety Tips

Snake Week: Fun facts about snakes in Arizona

In the Community: Summer Outreach Events

Staff Spotlight: Taylor Hedges, MPH, CHES





Prevention Poisonings While Traveling: Safety Tips

Although traveling and vacations are meant to be a time for rest and relaxation, it is important to practice safety habits and keep an eye on pets and children who may also be traveling with you.

Here's what you can do to prevent a poisoning (or envenomation) on your next adventure:

Store medications and personal care products appropriately.

Keep medications and personal care products in their original containers. These containers are designed with child-resistant packaging that help keep children from accessing items. Additionally, original packaging has labels which contain important information about the product such as, the name of the medication and dosage. Opt for purchasing travel-sized products rather than moving products into a clear travel container.

Pack a portable carbon monoxide detector.

Not all states mandate carbon monoxide detectors in hotels. Furthermore, vacation home rental companies such as Airbnb, also do not require hosts to have carbon monoxide detectors in their rental spaces. This increases the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning as exposures could go undetected.

Luckily, there are portable, battery-powered carbon monoxide detectors that are available to purchase. These devices are small in size making them easy to pack and take with you while traveling.

Familiarize yourself with venomous critters and poisonous plants local to the area you are traveling to.

The diversity of venomous critters and poisonous plants differs from region to region. When traveling you may encounter wildlife and plants that you normally wouldn't at home. You can learn about native species by visiting local Poison Center websites, local wildlife agency websites or consulting local experts such as local nature centers.

Keep all luggage, backpacks, and purses stored out of reach.

Things like our purses, backpacks, and suitcases can hold things like medications or personal care products (ie. perfumes, hand sanitizers, and mouthwash) which could be toxic to children. Keep purses, backpacks, and luggage off the floor on in a location that is locked away. When you have visitors at your home you can also encourage them to store away these items securely.

Visit our website for more information:



https://azpoison.com/



THE POISON PREVENTION SCRIPT



Snake Week: July 13th-July 19th

Snake Week is recognized in mid-July and World Snake Day is observed on July 16th each year. The purpose of these days are to promote education and awareness about snakes.

The following are some fun fact about snakes in Arizona:

- There are more than 13 different species of snakes in Arizona--venomous and non-venomous.
- The most common rattlesnake in Arizona is the Western Diamondback Rattlesnake.
- The Arizona state reptile is the Arizona Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake.
- The Gopher Snake is one of the most commonly encountered non-venomous snakes in Arizona. They are also commonly mistaken as Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes due to their appearance.



In the Community: Summer Outreach Activities

This summer our Community Outreach Coordinators have been busy providing presentations for babysitting training courses at Northwest Fire District and Drexel Heights Fire District. During these presentations, our educators provide safety information related to medications, household products, and bites and stings to students in the course. The purpose of the training is to equip students with the knowledge they need to prevent a poisoning or envenomation while babysitting young children.

Upcoming Event: On Saturday July 26th the AZ Poison Center will be participating in a Back to School Resource Fair at Mountain View High School from 9am-12pm. We will be providing general prevention information and distributing educational materials.





Connect with us on social media



azpoison.com



AZPDIC



@azpoisoncenter



@AzPDIC



@azpoisoncenter

Subscribe to the Newsletter



https://azpoison.com/content/ poison-prevention-script-mailinglist

Staff Spotlight: Taylor Hedges, MPH, CHES Community Outreach Coordinator



Meet our new Community Outreach Coordinator, Taylor Hedges!

Taylor is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) with a dual degree in Health Promotion & Education and Psychology from Illinois State University. She has an MPH from the University of Arizona with a concentration in Health Behavior Health Promotion.

Through her role Taylor works to prevent poisoning through education and community engagement. This involves developing and implementing strategies to raise public awareness about poison risks and promote poison prevention, often in collaboration with other organizations.