

**Blaine (Jess) Benson**  
The Poison Center  
Children's Hospital  
Omaha, Nebraska 68114

# POISON CONTROL CENTERS

Poison control centers (poison centers) are an excellent starting point in the event of a pesticide mishap. The specially trained nurses, pharmacists, and physicians who staff these 24-hour emergency telephone services assess the severity of the pesticide exposure, make treatment recommendations, and often provide valuable information for spill containment and cleanup. When hospital treatment is required, the poison center contacts the receiving hospital and provides the emergency department with the most current treatment information available. During large-scale pesticide accidents (hazardous material incidents) many poison centers assist first responders with selection of proper protective gear, determination of proper decontamination techniques, and development of triage guidelines for victims.

There is no charge for using a poison center. Usually state, county, or city taxes support this public service. In some states private hospitals or industries sponsor the program.

Access to poison control centers varies across the United States. A current list of centers and their telephone numbers accompanies this section. When in doubt, readers should consult the front of their telephone book for the number of their poison control center or should contact their local telephone information operator. There is no single poison center designated for the United

States. Instead, a regional network of poison centers exists. The advantage of this arrangement is that local poison centers know the capabilities of hospitals and first response crews in their region and are better able to guide poison victim treatment. When changes occur within the service region, such as a hospital closure, the local poison center is quickly able to adapt to the change.

Not all poison centers are equal. Thirty-six US poison centers have been credentialed as regional poison centers by the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC). In order to be designated as a regional poison center by AAPCC, the center must meet criteria regarding accessibility, population base, staff, qualifications, medical direction, public and professional outreach, protocol development, knowledge of service area capabilities, and data collection. In general, AAPCC regional poison centers serve larger population bases, have larger call volumes, and access more extensive information resources than nonregional centers. Not surprisingly, several studies suggest that AAPCC regional centers handle calls more proficiently than nonregional poison centers.

Calling a poison center during a pesticide mishap will further broaden our understanding of pesticide toxicology. Most poison centers in the United States contribute their case experience

to the Toxic Environmental Surveillance System (TESS), a national poisoning database developed and maintained by the American Association of Poison Control Centers. Each year, the American Journal of Emergency Medicine publishes an abstracted version of the TESS data so that the entire medical community can learn more about poisoning trends. With over 1.5 million poisonings being recorded on an annual basis, it is possible to use the data to precisely target poison prevention efforts, optimize treatments for specific poisonings, and identify problematic drugs, pesticides, and household products. In a sense, each poison center caller contributes to improved care for the next caller.

## For Additional Information

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Thompson, D. F., H. L. Trammel, N. J. Robertson, and J. R. Reingan. 1983. Evaluation of regional and nonregional poison centers. *N. Engl. J. Med.*: 308:191-194.

## Editors

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## PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF WILDLIFE DAMAGE — 1994

**Cooperative Extension Division  
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
University of Nebraska - Lincoln**

**United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Animal Damage Control**

**Great Plains Agricultural Council  
Wildlife Committee**

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF POISON CONTROL CENTERS**  
**Certified Regional Poison Centers**

**ALABAMA**

**Regional Poison Control Center**

The Children's Hospital of Alabama  
1600 7th Ave. S  
Birmingham, AL 35233-1711  
Emergency Phones: (205) 939-9201  
(800) 292-678 (AL only)  
(205) 933-4050

**ARIZONA**

**Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center**

Arizona Health Sciences Center, Rm. 3204-K  
1501 N. Campbell Ave.  
Tucson, AZ 85724  
Emergency Phones: (800) 362-0101 (AZ only)  
(602) 626-6016

**Samaritan Regional Poison Center**

Teleservices Dept.  
N. 12th St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85006  
Emergency Phone: (602) 253-3334

**CALIFORNIA**

**Fresno Regional Poison Control Center of Fresno  
Community Hospital and Medical Center**

2823 Fresno St.  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Emergency Phones: (800) 346-5922  
(209) 445-1222

**San Diego Regional Poison Center**

UCSD Medical Center 8925  
200 W. Air Dr.  
San Diego, CA 92103-8925  
Emergency Phones: (619) 543-6000  
(800) 876-4766 (in 619 area code only)

**San Francisco Bay Area Regional Poison Control  
Center**

San Francisco General Hospital  
1001 Potrero Ave., Bldg. 80, Rm. 230  
San Francisco, CA 94122  
Emergency Phone: (800) 523-2222

**Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Regional Poison  
Center**

S. Bascom Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95128  
Emergency Phones: (408) 299-5112  
(800) 662-9888 (CA only)

**University of California, Davis, Medical Center  
Regional Poison Control Center**

2315 Stockton Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95817  
Emergency Phones: (916) 734-3692  
(800) 342-9293 (Northern CA only)

**COLORADO**

**Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center**

645 Bannock St.  
Denver, CO 80204  
Emergency Phone: (303) 629-1123

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**National Capital Poison Center**

Georgetown University Hospital  
3800 Reservoir Rd., NW  
Washington, DC 20007  
Emergency Phones: (202) 625-3333  
(202) 784-4660 (TTY)

**FLORIDA**

**The Florida Poison Information Center at Tampa  
General Hospital Post**

Box 1289  
Tampa, FL 33601  
Emergency Phones: (813) 253-4444 (Tampa)  
(800) 282-3171 (Florida)

**GEORGIA**

**Georgia Poison Center**

Grady Memorial Hospital  
80 Butler St. SE  
Box 26066  
Atlanta, GA 30335-3801  
Emergency Phones: (800) 282-5846 (GA only)  
(404) 616-9000

**INDIANA**

**Indiana Poison Center**

Methodist Hospital of Indiana  
1701 N. Senate Blvd.  
Box 1367  
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1367  
Emergency Phones: (800) 382-9097 (IN only)  
(317) 929-2323

## MARYLAND

### **Maryland Poison Center**

20 N. Pine St.  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Emergency Phones: (410) 528-7701  
(800) 492-2414 (MD only)

### **National Capital Poison Center (DC suburbs only)**

Georgetown University Hospital  
3800 Reservoir Rd., NW  
Washington, DC 20007  
Emergency Phones: (202) 625-3333  
(202) 784-4660 (TTY)

## MASSACHUSETTS

### **Massachusetts Poison Control System**

300 Longwood Ave.  
Boston, MA 02115  
Emergency Phones: (617) 232-2120  
(800) 682-9211

## MICHIGAN

### **Blodgett Regional Poison Center**

1840 Wealthy, SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506-2968  
Emergency Phones: (800) 632-2727 (MI only)  
(800) 356-3232 (TTY)

### **Poison Control Center**

Children's Hospital of Michigan  
3901 Beaubien Blvd.  
Detroit, MI 48201  
Emergency Phone: (313) 745-5711

## MINNESOTA

### **Hennepin Regional Poison Center**

Hennepin County Medical Center  
701 Park Ave.  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
Emergency Phones: (612) 347-3141  
Petline: (612) 337-7387  
(612) 337-7474 (TDD)

### **Minnesota Regional Poison Center**

St. Paul-Ramsey Medical Center  
640 Jackson St.  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Emergency Phone: (612) 221-2113

## MISSOURI

### **Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital**

Regional Poison Center  
1465 S. Grand Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63104  
Emergency Phones: (314) 772-5200  
(800) 366-8888

## MONTANA

### **Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center**

645 Bannock St.  
Denver, CO 80204  
Emergency Phone: (303) 629-1123

## NEBRASKA

### **Blaine (Jess) Benson**

The Poison Center  
Childrens Hospital  
Omaha, NE 68114  
Emergency Phones: (402) 390-5555 (Omaha)  
(800) 955-9119 (NE)

## NEW JERSEY

### **New Jersey Poison Information and Education System**

201 Lyons Ave.  
Newark, NJ 07112  
Emergency Phone: (800) 962-1253

## NEW MEXICO

### **New Mexico Poison and Drug Information Center**

University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-1076  
Emergency Phones: (505) 843-2551  
(800) 432-6866 (NM only)

## NEW YORK

### **Hudson Valley Poison Center**

Nyack Hospital  
160 N. Midland Ave.  
Nyack, NY 10960  
Emergency Phones: (800) 336-6997  
(914) 353-1000

### **Long Island Regional Poison Control Center**

Winthrop University Hospital  
259 First St.  
Mineola, NY 11501  
Emergency Phones: (516) 542-2323, 2324, 2325, 3813

**New York City Poison Control Center**

N.Y.C. Dept. of Health  
455 First Ave., Rm. 123  
New York, NY 10016  
Emergency Phones: (212) 340-4494  
(212) P-O-I-S-O-N-S  
(212) 689-9014 (TDD)

**OHIO****Central Ohio Poison Center**

700 Children's Dr.  
Columbus, OH 43205-2696  
Emergency Phones: (614) 228-1323  
(800) 682-7625  
(614) 228-2272 (TrY)  
(614) 461-2012

**Cincinnati Drug and Poison Information Center  
and Regional Poison Control System**

231 Bethesda Ave., M. L. 144  
Cincinnati, OH 45267-0144  
Emergency Phones: (513) 558-5111  
(800) 872-5111 (OH only)

**OREGON****Oregon Poison Center**

Oregon Health Sciences University  
3181 S. W. Sam Jackson Park Rd.  
Portland, OR 97201  
Emergency Phones: (503) 494-8968  
(800) 452-7165 (OR only)

**PENNSYLVANIA****Central Pennsylvania Poison Center**

University Hospital  
Milton S. Hershey Medical Center  
Hershey, PA 17033  
Emergency Phone: (800) 521-6110

**The Poison Control Center  
serving the greater Philadelphia metropolitan area**

One Children's Center  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-4303  
Emergency Phone: (215) 386-2100

**Pittsburgh Poison Center**

3705 Fifth Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
Emergency Phone: (412) 681-6669

**RHODE ISLAND****Rhode Island Poison Center**

593 Eddy St.  
Providence, RI 02903  
Emergency Phone: (401) 277-5727

**TEXAS****North Texas Poison Center**

5201 Harry Hines Blvd.  
Box 35926  
Dallas, TX 75235  
Emergency Phones: (214) 590-5000,  
(800) 441-0040 (Texas Watts)

**Texas State Poison Center**

The University of Texas Medical Branch  
Galveston, TX 77550-2780  
Emergency Phones: (409) 765-1420 (Galveston)  
(713) 654-1701 (Houston)

**UTAH****Utah Poison Control Center**

410 Chipeta Way, Suite 230  
Salt Lake City, UT 84108  
Emergency Phones: (801) 581-2151  
(800) 456-7707 (UT only)

**VIRGINIA****Blue Ridge Poison Center**

Box 67  
Blue Ridge Hospital  
Charlottesville, VA 22901  
Emergency Phones: (804) 924-5543  
(800) 451-1428

**National Capital Poison Center (Northern VA only)**

Georgetown University Hospital  
3800 Reservoir Rd., N. W.  
Washington, DC 20007  
Emergency Phones: (202) 625-3333  
(202) 784-4660 (TrY)

**WEST VIRGINIA****West Virginia Poison Center**

3110 MacCorkle Ave. S. E.  
Charleston, WV 25304  
Emergency Phones: (800) 642-3625 (WV only)  
(304) 348-4211

**WYOMING****The Poison Center**

8301 Dodge St.  
Omaha, NE 68114  
Emergency Phones: (402) 390-5555 (Omaha)  
(800) 955-9119 (NE)