

CALIFORNIA POISON CONTROL SYSTEM POISON SAFETY UPDATE

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CPCS Hotline Staff Spotlight

What is your role at CPCS and how long have you been a poison expert? I have been working for the California Poison Control System (CPCS) for 12 years. As a Managing Director, I ensure that the Poison Hotline is fully staffed with Specialists in Poison Information (SPIs) and Poison Information Providers (PIPs) to answer incoming poison exposure calls throughout California. This includes ensuring that staff are trained and equipped to field a broad range of poisoning questions. I provide clinical support to staff for any poison exposure calls that need consultation. My Poison Center division is also responsible for following-up on hospitalized poisoned patients throughout the majority of Northern California. I am passionate about providing callers reassurance that they're going

to be okay; keeping people out of hospitals—saving Californians time and money, while also lessening the burden on our health care systems. In addition, I participate in outreach activities, such as hosting exhibitor tables during health fairs, teaching pharmacy students, and participating in poison-related research projects.

Tell us about yourself: I earned my doctorate in pharmacy degree from the University of California San Francisco and received toxicology training at the CPCS San Francisco Division. In my spare time, I enjoy snowboarding, fishing, and restoring old Volkswagens.



“I love working for Poison Control. It provides a new adventure every day.”
—Justin

Justin is a Managing Director of the California Poison Control System, a Doctor of Pharmacy, and a Diplomate of the **American Board of Applied Toxicology (ABAT)**, a nationwide recognition of clinical toxicologists demonstrating exceptional knowledge, experience, and competence.

Poison Safety

Lead is a toxic metal that can cause severe health problems in the brain and the body. The good news: lead poisoning is preventable. Learn more about lead poisoning and ways to stay safe. Visit calpoison.org/about-lead-poisoning to learn more.



CPCS Poison Hotline

“It was a really good experience and I am so happy that I did not have to go to the emergency room.” —CPCS Caller

In 2020, 42,881 adults age 25 to 44 died from poisoning in the United States (Center for Disease Control and Prevention). Poison exposure can happen to anyone—from children accidentally swallowing cleaning products, to adults experiencing alcohol poisoning, or an older adult accidentally taking the wrong medicine.

How can the California Poison Control System help you? Our Specialists in Poison Information are ready to answer any poison-related questions or concerns at **1-800-222-1222**. You can receive expert clinical advice by calling our Poison Hotline—available 24/7. Save our Poison Hotline number in your phone now.

Make a Gift



Enjoying our free CPCS services and resources? Support us by giving online. **Make a gift** today and help keep Californians safe from poison!

CPCS Resources



Watch our new poison prevention PSA created with Safe Kids Central California: youtu.be/03t-uXjwlaY. Visit flow.page/calpoison for more CPCS resources.

Text TIPS to 20121 for weekly poison information in English and PUNTOS for Spanish.

Guess the Poison!

HINT #1 I am soft and squishy to the touch. I can fit into the palm of a toddler's hand.

HINT #2 My job is to clean. Water makes my skin melt and concentrated chemicals come out.

HINT #3 Keep me out of sight and reach of children.

I may look attractive, but I am not a candy or a toy. If accidentally swallowed, I can cause serious injuries, seizures, coma, or even death.

WHAT AM I?

ANSWER: Laundry detergent pods



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