

Poison Play Scenarios

This activity takes approximately 5 minutes per scenario. Select participants to act out the following situations. As the scenario progresses, ask campers how they would respond.

Discussion points:

1. Stay calm when calling for help.
2. First aid for poisonings: take away the poison, wash skin or flush an eye, tell an adult, then call for help.
3. The poison center is available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week any where in the USA to help at 1-800-222-1222, free of charge
4. The poison center will never be mad if someone calls.
5. Sometimes poisons do not make people sick right away, it can take time, so always call even if someone looks fine.
6. Most victims do not have to go to the hospital.

Scenario I: Ingestion of Liquid

A boy about 10 years old is helping his dad work on the car. The boy's younger sister is outside with her brother and dad. She is playing in the garage. Before dad ran in the house to answer the phone, dad told the boy to "watch your sister for a few minutes". A few minutes later, the boy turns and finds his younger sister with a bottle of brake fluid. Some is spilled on her shirt, and some is around her mouth. She is acting normal.

What is the first thing the boy should do?

Do not panic.

Take away the poison. Remove the bottle from her hands and wipe off her mouth.

How should he get help?

Tell an adult. He should find his dad, while taking his sister with him.

Should they call for help?

Yes. Always call the poison center, 1-800-222-1222, for help if the person is not in distress, even if the victim seems fine. If the person is in distress, call 911.

Bring the container to the phone

First Aid

Take off exposed clothing and wash off exposed skin

Call the poison center before giving any Syrup of Ipecac or Activated Charcoal

What will the poison center say?

The poison center will want the caller to calmly explain what happened. They will also ask the name of the poison, how the victim is doing, and the caller's phone number.

Scenario II: Eye Exposure

Two friends are outside, and the mosquitoes are really biting. They decide to help each other out and spray insect repellent on each other. One friend accidentally sprays repellent in the other's eye. "Ouch!" yelps the victim.

What is the first thing they should do?

- Do not panic.
- Take away the poison.

First Aid

Flush the eye with a stream of medium-warm water. Luke warm water is more comfortable to use and carries away more toxins, cool water may used if lukewarm is not available.

Have victim tilt head back or lie down; small children may be wrapped in jacket or towel to control their arms from interfering. Using a large glass or small pitcher, pour a gentle stream of water 3 to 4 inches off the bridge of the nose or the forehead above the affected eye and let the water run across eye for several minutes. Encourage the victim to blink.

The victim can irrigate their own eye by cupping their hands under a running facet and putting the affected eye in the water and blinking for several minutes or getting into a shower and letting water run through eye

How should they get help?

- Unless help is necessary or an adult is immediately available. Irrigate eye before seeking help.
- Always call the poison center, 1-800-222-1222.

Scenario III: Medicine Ingestion

A 12-year-old girl is babysitting her 18-month-old brother while her parents go to lunch. He is playing in his bedroom. The girl notices he is being too quiet and decides to investigate. She walks into the bedroom and notices her brother is eating some of the contents of a Children's Tylenol container.

What should the girl do?

- Do not panic.
- Remove the child from the poison. Either physically pull the child away from the area or take the poison away.
- Call the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.
- Remember to bring the container to the phone

First Aid

Call the poison center before giving any Syrup of Ipecac or Activated Charcoal

What parents should remember?

Put current weights of children under 2 years old near the emergency number list. Weights are commonly needed to determine if the victim has taken enough to be poisonous

Leave a number where you can be reached in case of an emergency

Scenario IV: Dermal contact

Two friends a 12 year old and an 11 year old are playing in the garage. The 12 year old throws a ball to the 11 year old and misses. The ball knocks over a bottle of insecticide from the shelf. The bottle breaks on the floor and some of insecticide splashes up on the legs of the 11 year old. The 12 year old want to clean up the mess before his dad comes home.

What should they do?

Some insecticides and household chemicals can be well absorbed through the skin or are corrosive. It is important to avoid skin contact with these products.

Do not panic

First Aid first, then call the poison center at 1-800-222-1222

If the person is having trouble breathing, or other major symptoms call 911

First Aid

Remove any contaminated clothing. Rinse the affected area thoroughly with large amounts of water. Wash the same area gently with hand soap and warm water to remove all remaining chemicals on the skin. If exposed, remember to wash hair and under fingernails.

Finding Help

The poison center can help advise with proper clean up and disposal

Scenario V: Plant Ingestion

Two brothers, 6 years old, and 10 years old, are playing in a neighboring wooded area. They see that there were some very red berries on a bush. The 6 year old decides he should try some of them because they might be good to eat. What should the 10 year old do?

What is the first thing the 10 boy should do?

Discourage his brother from eating unknown berries as they can be poisonous and cause illness.

If he already ate some berries, the 10 year old should grab a branch with some of the leaves and berries on it.

The 10 year old should bring his brother back to his house and inform his parents of what occurred and have them call the poison center at 1-800-222-1222.

First Aid

Call the poison center before giving any Syrup of Ipecac or Activated Charcoal

Scenario VI: Mushroom Ingestion

A family goes camping and decides they are going to go mushroom hunting as one of their activities. Prior to departing, they purchase a mushroom identification book to assist them in this endeavor. They reach the campsite later that day and set up camp. The next morning, they go in search of mushrooms. They come across what looks to be a Morel species of mushroom according to their mushroom guide. They gather up

as many as they can find and trek back to camp. They wash the mushrooms and prepare them for the evening dinner. After eating the mushrooms as part of the evening meal, they settle into bed. Sometime through the night (about 6 hours after dinner) they begin waking up with a sudden onset of nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps and severe diarrhea. What has happened?

This family has been ingesting “False Morels” which are toxic and can have life threatening medical effects.

What should they do?

They should seek immediate medical attention.

Bring a sample of the mushroom with if available.

Note: It is wise to bring a cell phone with the Poison Help number (1-800-222-1222 programmed into it) while hiking in remote areas in case of emergency.

There is an old saying about mushroom hunters:

“There are bold mushroom hunters and there are old mushroom hunters, but there are no old, bold mushroom hunters”