**KEEP POISON CENTER NUMBER HANDY – NOW IT’S EASIER THAN EVER**

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OKLAHOMA CITY – As summer approaches, we spend more time outdoors and away from the house, whether it’s a weekend trip to the lake or cookout in a friend’s back yard. Poisonings from pool chemicals, insect repellents, lighter fluid, plants or insect bites increase during the spring and summer months. In these and other poisoning situations, the best response is to call the Poison Center.

“Quickly get the Poison Help number by **texting the word ‘poison’ to 797979.** You will be texted back a link that will automatically enter contact information for the Poison Center in your smartphone’s address book,” said Scott Schaeffer, managing director of the Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information. By saving the center’s contact information now, you can save precious time in the event of a poisoning emergency.

Medical professionals with advanced training in toxicology staff the Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information 24 hours a day. Located right here in Oklahoma, the Poison Center has established relationships with the medical community across our state. Be ready in the event of a poison emergency or if you have a question. In many cases, calling the Poison Center can save time, money and stress by avoiding an unnecessary trip to the emergency department.

Poisonings can happen anywhere, at any time, and to anyone. “We want to remind the public that while poisonings are the leading cause of injury deaths in the United States, many poisonings are preventable and expert help is always just a phone call away. Have the helpline number   
(1-800-222-1222) saved in your cell phone,” said Schaeffer.

Pharmacists and registered nurses at the poison center are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at (800) 222-1222. Please do not email the poison center or a member of the poison center staff, as poisoning emergencies are not handled through email. The Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information is a program of the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy at the OU Health Sciences Center. For more information, log on to [www.oklahomapoison.org](http://www.oklahomapoison.org).

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