

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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March 15, 2020

NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK, MARCH 15 – 21, 2020

As the Director of the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), I write this letter to highlight National Poison Prevention Week and share the importance of spreading awareness about poisoning prevention with the citizens of California.

Each year in our great state, the California Poison Control System receives more than 330,000 calls, about 80% of which are made from the home with nearly half of the calls involving children under the age of five. The most common examples of poisons we come in contact with are located in and around the home, including cleaning products, personal care products, medicines, pesticides, and plants. I urge all Californians to ask, "How safe is my home? Is my home childproofed?"

Don't guess. Be sure.

During National Poison Prevention Week, we can all take steps to avoid or reduce harm caused by poisonings. Learn about the dangers of poisonous and toxic substances and talk with your family, friends, and community members about precautions that can be taken to avoid exposure. The California Poison Control System offers helpful information online at www.calpoison.org.

Keep the number to the California Poison Help Line, 1-800-222-1222 saved in our cell phones and written on or near all home phones. The line is staffed 24 hours a day with pharmacists, physicians, nurses, and poison information providers, with interpreters available at all times, to provide expert information and treatment advice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Duncan".

Dave Duncan MD
Director