

TOXIC SUBSTANCES ALERT

When you think of **TOXIC SUBSTANCES**, do you think of poison, venom or acid?

There are many more **TOXIC SUBSTANCES** found in common household products that are left lying around the home every day.

To prevent accidental death or injury from harmful or toxic substances, it is crucial that you know the people that rely on you for support.

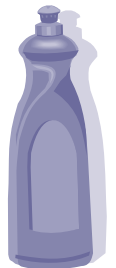
DISASTER MAY OCCUR IF SOMONE:

- Has a desire to try to drink or try to eat anything in sight;
- Only occasionally tries to eat or drink something left lying around;
- Cannot read warning labels;
- Does not have well-understood personal boundaries around what is good or not good for them.



TAKE AN INVENTORY OF YOUR HOME OR THE HOME OF THE PERSON FOR WHOM YOU SUPPORT:

- Is dish soap sitting out on the cupboard? —**TOXIC!**
- Are laundry detergents or bleach within easy reach: - **TOXIC!**
- How about hand sanitizer products? - **DANGEROUS!**
- Cleaning products such as oven cleaners or drain cleaners under the sink? **DANGEROUS**
- What about toothpaste lying on the bathroom sink? A mouthful could cause a **DANGEROUS** situation.
- Cleaning products, are they under a cupboard? **TOXIC!**
- Hair products on the sink? - **NOT FOR CONSUMPTION!**
- Lotions, skin creams lying on a dresser? - **NOT FOR CONSUMPTION!**
- How about that spare can of gasoline in the garage? - **DANGEROUS!**
- Over-the-counter medications in easy-to-reach sites— Too many could be **TOXIC!**
- Nail polish or remover on a night stand? **TOXIC!**
- Eyeglass cleaner in your open purse? **TOXIC!**



WHY DO THINGS GET LEFT OUT IN PLAIN SIGHT?

Sometimes we get so used to seeing an item that we fail to register the possible impact it could have if it were swallowed or eaten. What about toxic plants in the yard? Do you know which are which?

- Make sure the person has a clear, written plan that can be easily located and shared with others if you are not around.

HOW DO WE AVOID POTENTIAL DISASTER:

- Do an inventory often; Don't wait for tragedy to strike!
- Plan to be safe—operate under the “ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” principle.
- Train staff and/or family members to be observant (give rewards to anyone who finds a possibly toxic substance out of place).

FINALLY, any toxic or dangerous substance (such as soap) that is repackaged for convenience or to save money in a food or unlabeled container is **DANGEROUS TO EVERYONE!**