

About America's Poison Centers

America's Poison Centers represents the 53 accredited Poison Centers across the country. Through the national Poison Help line (1-800-222-1222) our member centers provide all Americans expert advice. We also maintain the National Poison Data System® (NPDS), our nation's only near real-time poisoning data surveillance system, integrating the latest information from across Poison Centers. We are united in our cause to prevent poison-related health emergencies in America.



The Poison Help line is:



**Fast, free, confidential,
and available 24/7.**



**Staffed by specialists
including doctors, nurses,
and pharmacists.**



**A one-stop resource to
answer your questions or for
assistance with any type of
poison or medication error.**

The nation's 53 Poison Centers provide free, expert support from nationally certified medical specialists for people experiencing a poison emergency.

**Call the Poison Help line at
1-800-222-1222 to be connected
to your local poison control center
for immediate help.**

**SOUTH CAROLINA
POISON
CENTER**

*In collaboration with and support from
the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

Preventing Poisonings After a Hurricane

**POISON
HELP** 
1-800-222-1222

Preventing Poisonings After a Hurricane



Avoiding Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) is known as the invisible killer. CO is a non-irritating, odorless, colorless, and tasteless air pollutant (gas).

Common sources of CO include:

- Portable, gas-powered generators
- Vehicles
- Grills or stoves (charcoal, wood, or gas)
- Lawn equipment (gas-powered lawn mowers, leaf blowers, etc.)
- Power tools (gas-powered saws, air compressors, etc.)

Common symptoms of CO poisoning include:

- Unusual tiredness
- Headache
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Dizziness
- Confusion or bizarre behavior
- Passing out or fainting

For poison emergencies and questions, call

1-800-222-1222

to be connected to your local poison control center.



Using a Generator Safely

Portable generators are often used during natural disasters when temporary power is needed. Follow these tips to safely use a generator:



Never use a generator inside your home, garage, carport, or any enclosed area.



Generators should be placed at least 20+ feet away from windows, doors, and A/C intake vents.



Carbon monoxide detectors should be placed near sleeping areas and on every floor of your home.



Medication Safety

- Keep a current list of medications, supplements, and/or vitamin names and dosages.
- Secure all medications in water-resistant bags and out of reach of children.
- Develop a plan to keep your refrigerated medications cool in case of a power outage.



During a Power Outage



Use a flashlight to ensure you are taking the correct medication and dosage.



Keeping Food & Water Safe

During a power outage it's important to keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed to maintain their cold temperatures.

Food will generally remain safe for:

- 4 hours** in a cold refrigerator
- 24 hours** in a half-full freezer
- 48 hours** in a full freezer

TIP: Throw away food that may be spoiled.

It is recommended to have one (1) gallon of water per person per day (for at least 3 days) available for drinking and sanitation.

Tips for storing water:

- Do not store in bottles/jugs that were used for non-edible products, such as chemical jugs.
- Do not store in direct sunlight or heat.



Cleaning After a Hurricane

Keep these tips in mind while cleaning debris inside or outside your home:

- Do not mix cleaning products and chemicals.
- Use gloves, protective eyewear, and masks when using chemicals.
- Open windows and doors to keep your inside area well ventilated.
- Follow label directions when using all chemicals.
- People with weakened immune systems should avoid cleanup, especially if mold is present.



Bites & Stings

Animals and/or insects may be hidden under debris. Look before you reach. If you've been bitten or stung by a snake, spider, or other creature, call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222 for immediate, expert advice.