For Immediate Release Contact:

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 Oklahoma City- This year, March 19-25th 2023 the Oklahoma Center for Poison & Drug Information and The America’s Poison Centers are participating in National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW), a week nationally dedicated to raising awareness about Poison Centers and the Poison Helpline 1-800-222-1222.

In 2022, the Oklahoma Center for Poison & Drug Information received approximately 34,069 calls, and placed another 33,203 follow-up calls to ensure patient safety and verify outcome. Over 38% of human exposure calls involved children 5 years of age or younger. On average 90% of poisonings happen at home and more than 70% of people who call get the help right where they are- saving the cost of a trip to a doctor or hospital.

To prevent poisonings, the Oklahoma Center for Poison & Drug Information recommends the following:

* Be prepared. Keep the free Poison Helpline number at your fingertips by saving the number in your phone: 1-800-222-1222.
* Practice safe storage habits. Always store medicines and hazardous substance up, and out of sight of children. Keep all chemicals and cleaning products in their original containers.
* Read and follow all labels and directions. Review medicine and product labels before you use them, especially before giving over-the-counter medicine to children.

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 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, visit OklahomaPoison.org.

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