



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

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NEWS RELEASE--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Idaho Poison Center reports 30 percent increase in calls about detergent packets

Poison centers across the country, including the Idaho Poison Center, have seen an increase in calls about pediatric exposure to single-use laundry detergent packets, which are convenient but pose a risk to small children because they are colorful and look like candy.

The Idaho Poison Center reports a 30 percent increase in calls about laundry detergent packets this year, compared to the previous year. So far, 40 of the 69 children in Idaho exposed to single-use laundry detergent packets required treatment in an emergency department; five of those children were hospitalized. National poison center data from 2012-2013 shows that 17,230 young children were exposed to these packets, and almost 800 children were hospitalized, according to a study in the journal "Pediatrics."

If you think a child has been exposed to any laundry detergent, immediately call the Idaho Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222. The registered nurses at the Poison Center are available 24/7 to answer your calls and questions. The poison center recommends these safety tips:

- Keep detergents locked up and out of reach of children and away from food.
- Follow the label instructions for disposal.
- Do not cut the single-use laundry detergents packets. They are designed to dissolve completely in the machine, even in cold water.

- Handle this product with dry hands only, and remember to close the product container completely after each use to keep out moisture. The film that encases the laundry detergent is designed to dissolve quickly, even in small amounts of water. Store the product away from water.
- Like all other cleaning products, keep the laundry detergent packets out of the reach of children and pets.
- Always ensure that the re-closable bag or container is tightly sealed and locked during storage.
- As with other laundry products, keep the product in its original container and with labels intact.

For more information, call the Idaho Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222. The Poison Center is sponsored by the Nebraska Medical Center, University of Nebraska Medical Center and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

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