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## *National Poison Prevention Week is March 15-21*

### **Health Officials Recommend Proper Disposal of Household Products to Prevent Accidental Poisonings**

**Salt Lake County (March 13, 2009)** –March 15-21 is National Poison Prevention Week and the Salt Lake Valley Health Department (SLVHD) is urging all county residents to make sure their homes are safe from accidental poisonings.

The SLVHD Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program is partnering this year with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Utah Poison Control Center to help raise awareness of the importance of proper use, storage and disposal of many common but potentially harmful consumer products.

Items such as household cleaning products, auto or yard care products (like anti-freeze and pesticides), and prescription and over-the-counter medications can be dangerous to children and animals if not handled or stored correctly. Always read the instructions on how to properly use chemicals in and around your home. Accidental poisonings often happen when pesticides and yard care chemicals are inappropriately used. Even more often the chemicals we use in our homes are not properly stored away from children; they are simply stored under our sinks or on a shelf in the garage.

Unwanted household cleaners, pesticides, fuels and paints, and other types of household hazardous waste should be removed from your homes and properly disposed. These items should never be flushed down your toilet or thrown in the trash; there are places within the community where they can be disposed of for free. The SLVHD operates two disposal sites that accept all types of household hazardous waste and two ABOP centers that exclusively accept antifreeze, batteries, oil and paint (see listing below for HHW permanent collection sites).

To make your home safe, unused medications should be removed from the home to avoid accidental poisonings and misuse. These old prescriptions should never be disposed of by flushing them down the toilet or put in the trash as they present both environmental and safety concerns. There are a number of drop boxes throughout the Salt Lake valley and the state that will accept old pharmaceuticals for free. These drop boxes are located at police departments as they are the only entity that can legally handle old medications. The listing of these drop boxes can be accessed through the SLVHD website at [www.slvhealth.org](http://www.slvhealth.org) and DEQ at [www.medicationsdisposal.utah.gov](http://www.medicationsdisposal.utah.gov)

#### Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facilities Call (801) 313-6700 or (801) 541-4078

Salt Lake Valley Solid Waste Facility  
6030 West 1300 South, SLC, UT 84104  
M - Sat 8 am - 4 pm

Trans-Jordan Cities Landfill  
10873 South 7200 West, South Jordan, UT 84095  
M - Sat 8 am - 4 pm

Murray ABOP Collection Center  
Murray Public Works Facility  
4646 South 500 West, Murray, UT 84107  
M - F 7 am - 3:30 pm

Sandy ABOP Collection Center  
Sandy Public Works Facility  
8775 South 700 West, Sandy, UT 84070  
M - F 7 am - 4:30 pm

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