

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Congress designated the third full week in March to be National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) in 1961 and since then this week has helped to raise national awareness of the dangers of potentially poisonous medicines, household chemicals, and other substances; and

WHEREAS, poison centers across the country will focus the public's attention on identifying poisoning hazards at home as well as learning ways to prevent poisoning emergencies; and

WHEREAS, unintentional poisoning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, approximately half of all reported poison exposures involve children under six (6) years of age; and

WHEREAS, the majority of poisoning deaths occur in adults aged 20 to 59; and

WHEREAS, every poisoning is preventable! From the youngest to the oldest all people and even pets are at risk.

WHEREAS, poison experts urge parents and caregivers to keep "single-load liquid laundry packets" out of sight and reach of young children. These products can cause serious harm if ingested; and

WHEREAS, consumers must be aware that e-cigarette devices, hookah pipes and liquid nicotine may contain very high doses of nicotine in enticing colors, aromas and flavors – increasing the likelihood that small children and pets will be drawn to them. These products pose serious risk of poisoning; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES), a division of the Department of Preventative Medicine and Community Health/NJ Medical School at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey provides free, expert medical advice, drug information, and poison prevention education to NJ residents through the 800-222-1222 Poison Help Hotline; and

WHEREAS, all services are free, confidential multilingual and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year even during bouts of Mother Nature; and

WHEREAS, poison centers save time and money by managing most cases at home, not requiring a visit to an emergency room; and

WHEREAS, poison centers save time and money by managing most cases at home, not requiring a visit to an emergency room; and

WHEREAS, NJ Poison Experts encourage all residents to program the Poison Help Line 800-222-1222 into home, office, and cell phones because a rapid response can make a difference in preventing serious injury and saving lives; and

WHEREAS, NJPIES is involved with the state's efforts in homeland defense, counter-terrorism, emergency preparedness and response and bio surveillance, and surveillance for clusters of poisonings and their sources (products, food and beverages, chemicals in the workplace and at home, environmental toxins, drugs and medicine and animal and insect bites and stings; and

WHEREAS, the poison center is instrumental in managing exposures during major storms like Superstorm Sandy; and

WHEREAS, the use of poison center services saves residents both time and money. Most cases are managed in the convenience of the caller's home, requiring no hospital visit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I Thomas M. McKay, Mayor of the Township of Lopatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby proclaim the week of March 15-21, 2015 as National Poison Prevention Week in New Jersey and encourage all citizens to pledge their commitment to ensuring the safety of themselves, their families and their community.