



The New Jersey Poison Information & Education System
Serving New Jersey Since 1983

Designated regional poison center
for New Jersey by New Jersey
Department of Health and Senior
Services and the American
Association of Poison Control
Centers

**Please distribute to the public; your local radio, magazines and newspapers;
websites; etc.**

PRESS RELEASE

Date: March 2008

Contact: Alicia Gambino, MA, CHES
973-972-9280

Parents Beware: *Children Poisoned by Products Containing Camphor*

Newark, New Jersey – Products containing an ingredient called *Camphor*, or “alcanfor” in Spanish, have been reported to cause dangerous and serious health risks in children. Poisoning symptoms include agitation, anxiety, vomiting, irritability, stomachache, nausea, and seizures. Any of these symptoms may appear as early as 5 to 20 minutes after exposure.

Many ethnic cultures use camphor products for a variety of reasons. Camphor is burned for “aarti” as part of Hindu religious ceremonies. In Spanish cultures, it is often used in some cold and cough products, air fresheners, and pest control products. These products can be sold as cubes or tablets in botanicas, bodegas, pharmacies, discount stores, etc.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has NOT approved these products for medical use and they should NOT be eaten or applied to the skin. If these products do not have the ingredients listed or the manufacturer information on the package, consider it to be unsafe and illegal.

The New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) strongly recommends parents, guardians, grandparents, and caregivers keep these products locked up and out of reach of children. If you suspect your child has come in contact with any product containing camphor (alconfor) or you have camphor products in your home and are not sure if it is safe to use, **call the NJ Poison Control Center Hotline immediately at 1-800-222-1222**. The hotline is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

Remember, Help Is Just a Phone Call Away!

located at University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

140 Bergen Street, Suite G 1600 Newark NJ 07101-1709

Telephone: 973-972-9280 Fax: 973-643-2679

Website: WWW.NJPIES.ORG