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**National Safety Council and National Grocers Association Partner for Poison Prevention Campaign**

**ARLINGTON, Virginia (September 9, 2002)** -The National Grocers Association's (N.G.A.) Grocers Care Program has partnered with the National Safety Council (NSC) to raise awareness about the importance of reading labels on household cleaners, medicine, pesticides, and pet products. Members of the National Grocers Association can receive free display materials from the National Safety Council created in association with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

A child is accidentally poisoned every 30 seconds in the United States and more than half of these poisonings occur at home to children under the age of five, according to the American College of Emergency Physicians. Many common household items can be poisonous, such as medicines, flea and tick collars, and other cleaning products.

"The National Grocers Association is proud to be a partner with the National Safety Council and EPA on this important public service project. The grocery industry is committed to protecting the health and safety of their neighbors, customers, and associates," said Tom Zaucha, N.G.A.'s President and CEO.

NSC President Alan McMillan advises, "The Council is pleased to be a part of this excellent cooperative campaign with the National Grocers Association and the EPA to bring down the alarming numbers of home poisonings. The materials developed and distributed will surely have a positive impact on the safety of families."

N.G.A. Members can receive free:

- Pamphlets on protecting kids
- Pamphlets on protecting households
- Pamphlets on protecting pets
- Pamphlets on protecting gardens
- Posters on product safety
- Fact sheets on a variety of poison prevention issues

In addition to displaying materials, members are encouraged to include information from fact sheets and pamphlets in their newsletters, ads, circulars, and websites. Please credit the National Safety Council in these or any other publications and send the Council a copy for its records. More information about the campaign is located at <http://www.nsc.org/poison.htm>.

The National Safety Council is also willing to help National Grocers Association members organize activities by:

- Providing additional information available for display during Poison Prevention Week in the 3rd week of May 2003.
- Producing signs/posters to be placed in the household product aisle on how to understand the information on labels of potentially poisonous household products.
- Establishing a drawing where consumers responding to questions about labels are eligible to win free family first-aid kits. Everyone providing correct responses is eligible to win.

For more information about the campaign, please contact Kristin Marstiller at the National Safety Council, phone 202-974-2469, or email [marstilk@nsc.org](mailto:marstilk@nsc.org).

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N.G.A. is the national trade association representing the retail and wholesale grocers that comprise the independent sector of the food distribution industry. An independent retailer is a privately owned or controlled food retail company operating in a variety of formats. Some are publicly traded but with controlling shares held by the family and others are employee owned. Most independent operators are serviced by wholesale distributors, while others may be partially or fully self-distributing. Independents are the true “entrepreneurs” of the grocery industry and dedicated to their customers, associates, and communities. N.G.A. members include retail and wholesale grocers and their state associations, as well as manufacturers and service suppliers.