Mushroom Poisonings

If You Suspect a Poisoning

If you suspect that you have consumed a poisonous mushroom, contact a physician, or your local poison control center. Once help has been secured, it is advisable to try to get the suspect mushrooms identified. NAMA provides a list of volunteers who are able to assist with identification in poisoning cases. It is best to get help if you are not familiar with mushroom identification.

What You Can Do

If you, someone you know, or even your pet may have been poisoned by mushrooms, try to get a sample of the same mushroom or mushrooms from where they were found. This will help aid in identification.

Place any available material in a paper bag or waxed paper, not plastic and refrigerate until it can be examined. Note where the mushrooms were collected in case the mushrooms may have been contaminated by uptake of pesticides or heavy metals from lawns, roadsides or industrial areas.

FILE A REPORT! It is important to file a report, even if the outcome was only a gastrointestinal upset. NAMA tracks ALL mushroom poisonings.

After the incident, help document mushroom poisonings by submitting an online report or mail-in report to the NAMA Poison Case Registry.

NAMA Mushroom Warning Poster
This warning poster notes the two deadly fungi, Amanita phalloides and Amanita bisporigera, responsible for the most fatal poisonings around the world. It includes warnings in several languages. Incidents of mushroom poisoning have been notable in people who are newly arrived in North America.

NAMA and cooperating organizations seek widespread distribution of the warning poster. The electronic version (approximately 11" x 17") may be downloaded and printed for educational use. A limited number of posters will be sent without charge when requested for educational, non-commercial use.

We would like to thank Martha Gottlieb, Chair of the Arts & Graphics Committee, for design and artwork in creating this new version of the NAMA warning poster.

Send requests for paper copies of the poster to the NAMA Executive Secretary Barbara Ching by email. We appreciate donations to cover the cost of shipping.

**Dogs and Cats and Mushrooms**

Pets have been known to eat mushrooms in yards and on walks. While 99% of mushrooms have little or no toxicity, the 1% that are highly toxic can cause life-threatening problems in pets. Take extra care to keep pets away from areas where mushrooms might be growing. Immediately contact your veterinarian or the NAMA Identifiers list if you see your pet eating a wild mushroom. Try to get a sample of what
Other Resources
Listed below are a number of excellent books, literature, and websites where you can learn about mushroom identification and toxicology:

Books


Recent Literature


Web Resources
Erowid
MushroomExpert