Poisonous Wild Mushrooms
November 16, 2011

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Local Public Health Officials Warn Against Consumption of Wild Mushrooms

INCIDENT
• Santa Cruz County received the second report this year of a hospitalized person who became seriously ill after eating mushrooms collected in the La Selva Beach area.
• Both illnesses were probably due to the mushroom *Amanita phalloides*.

RECOMMENDATIONS
• Wild mushrooms should not be eaten unless they have been determined edible by a recognized mushroom expert.
• Individuals who develop any of these symptoms--abdominal pain, cramping, vomiting, and/or diarrhea after eating wild mushrooms should immediately contact the California Poison Control System at 1-800-8-POISON (1-800-876-4766) or 1-800-222-1222 and seek immediate medical attention.

INFORMATION
• In past years, multiple hospitalizations, gastrointestinal illnesses and even deaths, have been caused by the consumption of wild mushrooms.
• The deaths have been linked to the *Amanita ocreata* mushroom, also known as the “destroying angel” and the *Amanita phalloides* mushroom, commonly called the “death cap” mushroom.
• Poisonous mushrooms are found throughout Santa Cruz County. The most common are: *Amanita phalloides*  
  *Amanita ocreata*  
  *Galerina autumnalis* (deadly)
• Eating poisonous mushrooms can cause abdominal pain, cramping, vomiting, diarrhea, liver damage resulting in the need for liver transplant, and death-- the symptoms usually occur 6 to 12 hours after ingestion. After gastrointestinal symptoms subside, liver damage may appear.
• Mushroom resources recommended by the Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz County are:
Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.