



Office of Environmental Health & Safety
333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 21st Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Phone: (213) 241-3199
Fax: (213) 241-6816



SAFETY ALERT

No. 16-02

Firestick Plant

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Recently, a plant commonly known as “Firestick Plant” was sent home with students as a Mother’s Day gift at one of our schools. This alert is provided as a warning about the hazards associated with this common plant even though there were no reports of incident.

The plant contains a milky, white sap that is caustic and may cause severe irritation to the skin, mucosa, and eyes upon contact. Ingestion may cause irritation of the mouth and stomach accompanied by pain and diarrhea. This plant is classified by poison control centers as a chemical skin irritant.

The botanical name of the plant is *Euphorbia Tirucalli*; other common names are firestick cactus, pencil tree, pencil cactus and milk bush. This plant is not on the LAUSD Approved Plant List. If you have potted Firestick Plants on campus, they must be removed or discarded immediately. If planted as part of a school garden or landscape, contact your Complex Project Manager to have the plant safely removed from the site.



Figure A: Firestick Plant



Figure B: Firestick plant in a garden

If you have any questions, please contact the office of Environmental Health and Safety at (213) 241-3199.