

Carbon Monoxide Awareness

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Effective July, 1 2011, Carbon Monoxide detectors are required by California state law to be installed in every single family home.

What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas that that is difficult to detect without equipment. Also known as The Silent Killer, the poisonous gas can overtake the human body without warning. Each year approximately 500 people die, and nearly 20,000 people report to hospitals for treatment as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning.

What are the effects of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning?

When Carbon Monoxide (CO) is breathed in, it reduces oxygen levels in the blood posing a hazard for the heart, brain and other vital organs. The symptoms may appear as flu-like symptoms, but some cases of high or prolonged levels of exposure may lead to death.

The most common symptoms include:

- Fatigue
- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Nausea and vomiting
- Drowsiness
- Loss of consciousness

How can I protect my family?

- Install battery-operated CO detectors in your home;
- Check the detectors regularly to ensure they are functioning properly;
- Have furnaces and gas burning appliances inspected annually;
- Have fireplaces inspected and cleaned annually to ensure proper ventilation;
- Do not leave cars running in attached garages or in carports near open windows;
- Be careful not to use charcoal or gas grills in an enclosed area or near windows.

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

For More Information Contact Tracy Fire at 209-831-6700

Learn the danger zones in your home...And Protect your family with a Carbon Monoxide Detector; It's the law!

The Silent Killer:
Potential Carbon Monoxide Sources in Your Home

Chimney
Clogged or blocked chimney opening

Bedroom
Unvented space heater

Cracked Flue

Kitchen
Improperly installed or faulty gas oven, range or cooktop vent

Living Room
Gas or wood burning fireplace

Garage

- Auto exhaust fumes
- Operating barbecue grill in enclosed area
- Powered outdoor equipment operated close to home

Basement
Improperly installed or faulty gas clothes dryer, furnace or water heater

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America. The odorless, tasteless and colorless gas, known as "The Silent Killer," is undetectable to the human senses. CO is produced by common household appliances that burn fossil fuels, including gas or oil furnaces, water heaters, clothes dryers, space heaters, gas ovens and wood burning or gas fireplaces. Other potential sources include cracked flues or blocked chimneys, car exhaust fumes entering the house from an attached garage, lawnmowers, propane garage heaters, power washers and propane fired pool heaters. Early symptoms of CO poisoning such as headaches, nausea and fatigue are often mistaken for the flu and the gas goes undetected in the home. Prolonged exposure to CO can lead to brain damage and even death. Installing a carbon monoxide alarm on each level of the home is the first line of defense homeowners have against this household hazard.

Information Provided by Kidde

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