

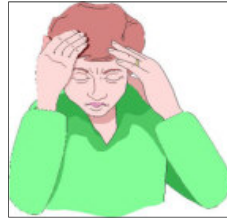
## Why is Carbon Monoxide Dangerous?



Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, colorless, tasteless gas which is highly toxic and impossible to detect without the proper equipment. Unintentional CO poisoning kills more than 500 people each year and sends another 15,000 to the hospital for treatment.

CO enters the body through the lungs during normal breathing, just like oxygen. But CO competes with the oxygen and combines with the red blood cells, replacing the oxygen. This prevents the flow of oxygen to the brain and other vital organs causing a variety of medical problems. Once CO enters the bloodstream it is not easy to remove, and can continue to block out oxygen over a period of time.

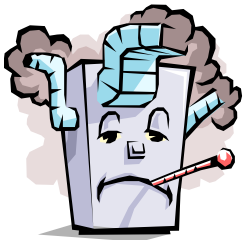
## What are the symptoms of CO Poisoning?



Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning can cause the following symptoms. Discuss these symptoms with all household members.

- **MILD EXPOSURE:** Slight headache, nausea, vomiting, fatigue. (Often described as “flu - like symptoms.)
- **MEDIUM EXPOSURE:** Severe throbbing headache, drowsiness, confusion, accelerated heart rate.
- **EXTREME EXPOSURE:** Unconsciousness, convulsion, heart and lung failure, brain damage, death.
- Many cases of extreme exposure have shown that victims are aware they are not feeling well, but are unable to function well enough to exit the building or get help.

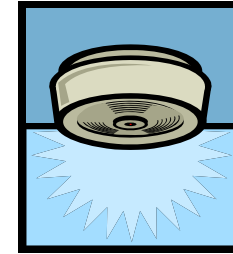
## Where Does Carbon Monoxide Come From?



Any fuel burning appliance can be a source of Carbon Monoxide. CO is produced when any type of fuel (wood, charcoal, oil, kerosene, gas, propane, etc.) is incompletely burned or exposed to heat, as in a fire.

Typical appliances that we rely on for comfort, such as the furnace, fire places, grills, dryers, stoves, space heaters, pilot lights and automobiles are often the main source of CO, and when they malfunction or are not properly ventilated, CO levels rise quickly.

## What to do if Your Alarm Sounds



1. Be prepared with a practiced escape plan. Familiarize all family members with the alarm signal and the best escape routes from your home.

- Do a head count to make sure everyone is out
  - Seek medical attention if you or a family member are experiencing any symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
  - Keep your family in a pre-arranged meeting place outside your home, and **DO NOT** re-enter your home under any conditions, until help has arrived and the danger has passed.
2. Call the Fire Department and ask them to determine the level of Carbon Monoxide within your home to assess the risk involved.
3. Call the gas company or your heating contractor and ask them to determine the source of the CO. Also have them check your heating and cooking appliances for obvious signs of a malfunction.
4. Ventilate your home prior to re-entering the structure if it has not already been done.
5. If in doubt relocate your family until the problem has been corrected.

# Understanding the Effects of CO Exposure

Concentration of CO in air (PPM) (parts per million)	Approximate Inhalation Time & Toxic Symptoms Developed
50 ppm	The maximum allowable concentration for <u>continuous</u> exposure in any 8-hour period. (According to OSHA)
200 ppm	Slight headache, fatigue, dizziness and nausea after 2-3 hours.
400 ppm	Frontal headaches within 1-2 hours. Life threatening after 3 hours. Maximum ppm for flue gases per EPA.
800 ppm	Dizziness, nausea, convulsions within 45 minutes; unconsciousness within 2 hours; death in 2-3 hours.
1600 ppm	Headache, dizziness and nausea within 20 minutes; death within 1 hour.
3200 ppm	Headache, dizziness and nausea within 5-10 minutes; death within 30 minutes.
6400 ppm	Headache, dizziness and nausea within 1-2 minutes; death within 10-15 minutes.
12800 ppm	Death within 1-3 minutes.

# Carbon Monoxide Detector Law

Is your home protected by Carbon Monoxide Detectors? Effective January 1, 2007 Public Act 94-0741 "The Carbon Monoxide Alarm Detector Act" requires every dwelling unit to be equipped with at least one UL listed or FM approved carbon monoxide alarm in an operating condition within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping purposes. The carbon monoxide alarms can be either battery powered, plug-in with battery back-up or wired into the structure's AC power line with secondary battery back-up. Carbon monoxide detectors are available for purchase at most hardware and home improvement stores.

It will be the responsibility of the owner of the structure to supply and install required alarms, provide written alarm testing and maintenance information to the tenant and to insure all detectors are in proper working order at the time of initial possession. It will be the responsibility of the tenant to test and replace batteries, provide general maintenance for the alarm and to notify the owner, in writing, of any deficiencies they cannot correct.

The Village's Building Department will address this issue during "Change of Occupancy" inspections. The Fire Department will check for properly installed detectors when responding to calls. Homes that do not have an approved, working Carbon Monoxide Detector will be referred to the Fire Prevention Bureau for follow up.

A complete copy of the bill is available on the fire department's web site. Anyone with questions can contact the fire department for further information.

# CARBON MONOXIDE

## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS and INFORMATION



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