

CARBON MONOXIDE



Carbon Monoxide (**CO**) is an odorless, tasteless, invisible poisonous gas. Exposure to **CO** gas is responsible for hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries each year. **CO** poisoning is a threat that you cannot see, hear, smell or taste, but one that you can **prevent**.

WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE(CO)?

CO gas is produced when materials containing carbon (wood, coal, oil, etc.) are burned incompletely. Each burning carbon atom joins with only one oxygen atom instead of the usual two.



WHY IS CO SO DEADLY?

CO GAS IS: ODORLESS TASTELESS INVISIBLE DEADLY

CO can kill or cause long-lasting health problems. It is especially dangerous for children, pregnant women, people with heart disease and the elderly.

CO gas is hard to detect with the human senses

CO quickly and readily latches onto red blood cells

CO takes the place of Oxygen

CO prevents the blood from supplying cells and organs with oxygen, leading to cell and organ death

WHAT ARE SOURCES OF CO?

Any machine that burns fuel can produce **CO**.

- Fuel-fired furnaces
- Gas water heaters, stoves and dryers
- Gas-powered generators
- Fireplaces, woodstoves and grills
- Lawnmowers, snow blowers, leaf blowers, etc.
- Cars, trucks and motorcycles

YOU CAN PREVENT A CO TRAGEDY

Never run a gas-powered vehicle in your home or garage

Don't use a charcoal grill or a gas-powered generator inside a house, tent or any enclosed space

Make sure that vents on furnaces and water heaters are free from leaks and obstructions, and are adequately sized

Have your home heating system professionally inspected at least once a year

EXPOSURE SYMPTOMS

HEADACHE
SHORTNESS OF BREATH
CHEST PAINS
VISUAL PROBLEMS
SLEEPINESS
NAUSEA
DIZZINESS



WHAT TO DO IF YOU HEAR THE ALARM

If the **CO** Alarm goes off, don't panic. First, see if anyone has symptoms of **CO** exposure. If no one is ill:

- Turn off all fuel-burning appliances
- Open windows and doors to ventilate
- Reset the alarm
- If the alarm sounds again or won't reset, have a heating and ventilation professional inspect the home as soon as possible

IF ANYONE HAS SYMPTOMS:
LEAVE THE HOUSE AT ONCE!
Contact your Fire Department from outside the home



AVOID THE SILENT KILLER – INSTALL CO ALARMS!