

Protect Your Family from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that forms from incomplete combustion of fuels, such as natural and liquefied petroleum gas, oil, wood and coal. When CO is inhaled, it displaces the oxygen that would ordinarily bind with hemoglobin, a process that effectively suffocates the body. CO can poison slowly over a period of several hours, even in low concentrations. High concentrations of carbon monoxide can kill in less than five minutes.

Use these simple tips to protect your family from CO poisoning:

1. Install CO detectors:

- *within 10 feet of every bedroom door;*
- *on every floor of your home;*
- *near or over an attached garage;*
- *near, but not directly above, combustion appliances;*
- *in the same room as permanently installed fuel-burning appliances; and*
- *in every HVAC zone of the building.*

2. Make sure appliances are installed and operated according to the manufacturers' instructions and local building codes.

3. Never burn charcoal inside a home, garage, vehicle or tent.

4. Never leave a car running in an attached garage, even with the garage door open.

5. Never use a gas appliance, such as a stove, oven or clothes dryer, to heat your home.

6. Do not operate generators in the garage or close to the home.

7. Never service fuel-burning appliances without the proper knowledge, skill and tools.

8. Regularly inspect your home's external vents to ensure that they are not obscured by debris, dirt or snow.

9. During home renovations, make sure that appliance vents and chimneys are not blocked by tarps or debris.

10. Never operate unvented fuel-burning appliances in rooms where people are sleeping.

