

Carbon Monoxide Detectors



BROUGHT TO YOU BY
SHENANDOAH COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF FIRE AND RESCUE



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Shenandoah County Department of Fire and Rescue is dedicated to making sure every citizen in or passing through our county stays as safe as possible. SCFR have gathered the most important information about carbon monoxide. We hope you read and talk about the topic covered in this booklet with your family. If you have questions feel free to contact our office and we will help you any way we can.

Sincerely,

Gary Yew
Fire and Rescue Chief and
SCFR Staff

CARBON MONOXIDE... THE SILENT KILLER



WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?

Carbon monoxide is known as the silent killer because it is an odorless, tasteless, colorless toxic gas. It is made by the incomplete burning of solid, liquid and gaseous fuels such as LP gas, oil, kerosene, coal, charcoal or wood. Vehicles also produce carbon monoxide.



Over 200 people a year in the United States alone, die of carbon monoxide poisoning caused by fuel burning appliances like furnaces, stoves, water heaters and gas space heaters.



Other people die from leaving their vehicles idling in attached garages. Thousands of others are treated in emergency rooms for carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide can kill you before you even know it is in your home. Carbon monoxide detectors are a safety device that is easy to maintain and can give you peace of mind. In homes without gas stoves the normal CO range is .5 to 5 parts per million. In homes with gas ranges a normal reading will be 5-15 parts per million. CO gets deadly at 250 parts per million.



WHAT CAUSES CARBON MONOXIDE?

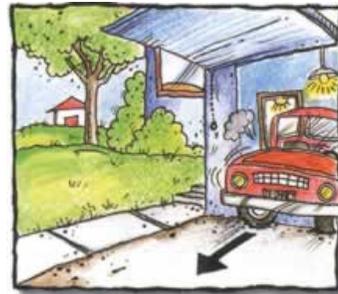
There are many items in your home that can cause increased levels of Carbon Monoxide. Here are some of the most common:

- Improperly functioning gas appliances
- Wood burning stoves and fireplaces
- Attached garages with vehicles left running in them
- Unvented kerosene and gas space heaters
- Leaking gas furnaces and water heaters
- Improperly vented generators

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING?

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are wide and various. They can be as common as flu symptoms.

- Nausea
- Fatigue
- Impaired Vision
- Impaired Coordination
- Disorientation
- Paralysis
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Death



Long term exposure to high levels of carbon monoxide has been shown to even cause problems to unborn children.

Steps to reduce the Carbon Monoxide in your home.

- Keep your gas appliances adjusted properly
- Use vented space heaters with proper fuel in them
- Use exhaust fans on your stove
- Keep flues open when using a fireplace

If your Carbon Monoxide detector sounds call 911 immediately and go outdoors. The fire department will tell you when it is safe to go back inside.