

Carbon Monoxide – The Silent Killer

Carbon monoxide is a deadly gas that is difficult to detect because it is invisible, tasteless and odorless. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, carbon monoxide kills approximately 300 people in their homes each year.

Carbon monoxide is produced by everyday fuel-burning appliances and equipment found in the home. Your home may be at risk for carbon monoxide poisoning if you use these types of appliances. To protect your family and home, install both smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms. Carbon monoxide alarms cannot detect smoke and fire, and smoke alarms cannot detect carbon monoxide. Both are very important for your safety! These alarms can be found at any hardware store and are easy to install.

Below you will find some tips to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning by using household equipment properly.

- Install at least one carbon monoxide alarm near sleeping areas.
- Have trained professionals inspect and clean or repair your home's fireplaces and woodstoves as needed.
- Keep gas appliances properly adjusted and serviced.
- Never use an oven or range to heat your home.
- Never use a gas or charcoal grill inside your home or in a closed garage.
- Portable electric generators are for outdoor use ONLY. Follow the directions closely.

If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning in your home, follow these important steps:

- Call 9-1-1 immediately. Be sure to keep emergency phone numbers posted by the phone for quick access.
- Open windows and doors to ventilate the room or area, and evacuate the home.
- Seek immediate medical treatment for anyone who may be showing symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Following the advice of the responding agency and be sure that repairs are made.

Use these tips to keep your family safe this winter. For more information and other great home safety tips, visit the Home Safety Council's website at www.homesafetycouncil.org and click on "safety guide".