

# CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY



**N**ovember is  
Carbon Monoxide  
Safety Month!

Many of the objects we use every day that burn fuel – including cars, stoves, grills, fireplaces and furnaces – release fumes that contain carbon monoxide. If carbon monoxide builds up and is inhaled it can be poisonous.

As colder weather starts, people use fuel-burning appliances more frequently in order to keep warm. Everyone needs to be extremely vigilant when using the appliances to prevent deadly exposure to carbon monoxide.

Carbon monoxide is often called the “silent killer” because it cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted. It is an invisible, odorless gas.

Common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headaches, nausea, dizziness, and fatigue. These symptoms closely resemble other illnesses such as the flu or food poisoning, and carbon monoxide poisoning is not always suspected. People most at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning are infants, small children, pregnant women, elderly people, and people with heart or lung problems.

Here are tips to prevent exposure to this silent killer:

- Eliminate Carbon Monoxide at the source. Have your furnace, fireplace, and all fuel-burning appliances checked and cleaned every year.
- Never heat your home with a gas stove.
- Never use a barbeque, hibachi or charcoal grill, or gas-powered generator, in the home or an enclosed area.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow.

Even if you follow all of these tips, make sure you have working carbon monoxide detectors installed on every floor of the house, outside every sleeping area, where they can be easily heard.



Install the detector at knee height, never at the ceiling as you would a smoke alarm; Carbon Monoxide is heavier than air.

Test Carbon Monoxide (and smoke) alarms at least once a month and clean them and replace batteries twice a year.

Replace the Carbon Monoxide alarms (and your smoke alarms) if they were manufactured before 2011. To find out if any of your alarms should be replaced, check the age by looking for a date of manufacture sticker on the outside edge of the alarm, or, for older models, look on the bottom.

If the Carbon Monoxide alarm sounds, get everyone, including pets, outside to fresh air before calling 9-1-1.

*Carbon monoxide is often called the “silent killer” because it cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted.*