



MAFES Dawg Tracks

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Safety Tips: Carbon Monoxide Safety



According to the Consumer Safety Products Safety Commission (CSPSC) each year more than 170 people in the USA die from carbon monoxide poisoning.

What is Carbon Monoxide Poisoning?-

- ✓ Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an odorless and colorless gas that interferes with the delivery of oxygen in the blood to the rest of the body.
- ✓ It is produced by the incomplete combustion of fuels.

Major Sources of Carbon Monoxide-

- It is produced as a result of incomplete burning of carbon-containing fuels including coal, wood, charcoal, natural gas and fuel oil.
- It can be emitted by combustion sources such as unvented kerosene and gas heaters, furnaces, wood stoves, gas stoves, fire places and water heaters, automobile exhaust from attached garages and tobacco smoke.
- Problems can arise as a result of improper installation, maintenance or inadequate ventilation.

Health Effects-

- Carbon monoxide (CO) interferes with the distribution of oxygen in the blood to the rest of the body.
- Depending upon the amount inhaled, this gas can impede coordination, worsen cardiovascular conditions and produce fatigue, headaches, weakness, confusion, disorientation, nausea and dizziness.
- High levels of inhalation can cause death.

Prevention of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning-

- ✓ Ensure that appliances are properly adjusted and working to the manufacturer's instructions and local building codes.
- ✓ Obtain annual inspections for the heating system. Chimneys and flues. Have them cleaned by a qualified technician.
- ✓ Open flues when fireplaces are in use.
- ✓ Use the proper fuel in kerosene space heaters.
- ✓ Do not use ovens and gas ranges to heat homes.
- ✓ Do not burn charcoal inside a home, cabin, or a recreational vehicle or a camper.
- ✓ Make sure that stoves and space heaters are vented to the outside and be sure that exhaust systems don't leak.
- ✓ Do not use unvented gas or kerosene space heaters in enclosed spaces.

- ✓ Never leave a lawn mower or car running in a garage or shed or other enclosed spaces.
- ✓ Make sure that the furnace has sufficient intake of outside air.

Actions to Take for Carbon Monoxide Poisoning-

Whatever you do, don't ignore the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, especially if more than one person is feeling them. **If you think that you or another person close by is suffering from the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, you should:**

- **Get fresh air immediately.** Open doors and windows. Turn off combustion appliances and leave the house.
- **Get to an emergency room.** Be sure to tell the doctor or personnel in the ER that you suspect CO poisoning.
- **Be prepared to answer the following questions:**
 - Is anyone else in the household complaining of CO symptoms?
 - Did everyone's symptoms appear at about the same time?
 - Are you using any fuel-burning appliances in the home?
 - Have you had the appliances inspected anytime lately?
 - Are you certain that they are working properly?

Carbon Monoxide Detectors-

Next to the prevention of toxic CO gas, the CO detectors are the best prevention against this deadly killer. These devices detect toxic concentrations of CO in the air, sound an alarm, and thereby save lives.

- These alarms come with 2 levels. The alarm sounds at life-threatening levels of concentration or another type that sounds with low levels of concentration. Some are more sensitive than others, which will sound an alarm at an earlier detection of CO.
- Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) listed CO detectors manufactured after October, 1995 to have on the label the sensitivity level of the product.
- The detectors should be installed outside of sleeping areas, outside of bedrooms so that all occupants in that part of the house can hear the alarm and also in common living areas.
- Change detector batteries every 6 months- don't install them within 5 feet of household chemical storage for fear of detector damage or false alarms.
- If the alarm goes off, do not ever ignore it. Get a qualified individual to check the affected area to be sure is it safe or if mitigation is necessary.

**SAFE ACTIONS BRING
LASTING SATISFACTION**



**AT WORK - AT HOME
LET SAFETY BE KNOWN**

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Excerpts: www.nsc.org/
www.carbonmonoxidekills.com