

MAFES Dawg Tracks

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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

*Safety Tips:
Carbon Monoxide Safety*

Carbon monoxide is known as the “silent killer.” Why is this true? Because this gas is colorless, odorless and often goes undetected by humans. It will strike victims when they are off-guard and sound asleep.

According to the **Center for Disease Control and Prevention**, more than 400 Americans die each year from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning. Over 20,000 will visit an emergency room and over 4,000 will be hospitalized. The **Consumer Product Safety Commission** says that about 170 people die each year from carbon monoxide poisoning by non-automotive consumer products, such as room heaters and charcoal that is burned in homes. Also, in 2005 the CPSC reported 94 generator-related carbon monoxide deaths.

Carbon monoxide is produced by burning fuel in cars, trucks, houseboats, small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, gas ranges or furnaces. When these gases build up in enclosed spaces, people or animals that breathe them can be poisoned.

PREVENTION OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING-

- Be sure to have your heating system, water heater and any other gas or coal burning appliances serviced annually.
- Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors.
- Never use a generator inside your home, basement or garage or less than 20 feet from any window, door or vent.
- Have your chimney (if you have one) checked and cleaned every year.
- Make sure your gas appliances are vented properly.
- If you need to warm a vehicle before using it, be sure to pull out of the garage immediately after starting the engine. This is true for any motorized vehicle, including motorcycles.

SYMPTOMS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING-

Low to moderate carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms-

- ✓ Headaches
- ✓ Fatigue
- ✓ Shortness of breath
- ✓ Nausea
- ✓ Dizziness

High level carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms-

- ✓ Mental confusion
- ✓ Vomiting
- ✓ Loss of muscular coordination
- ✓ Loss of consciousness
- ✓ Death

Symptom severity varies depending on the level of carbon monoxide and duration of exposure. Mild symptoms sometimes are mistaken for the flu.

Ted Gordon-Risk Mgmt. / Loss Control Mgr.
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Excerpts: www.nsc.org/learn/safety
www.kidde.com/home-safety

PROTECTION FROM CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING-

- ✓ Every home or business should have carbon monoxide detectors installed in their facilities in high profile areas, such as sleeping areas in the home and high profile areas in businesses. Having a working alarm system is the only way to detect (CO₂) in enclosed areas.
- ✓ If the home has only one detector, install it in a hallway just outside the sleeping area. If there is only one for a business, it should be installed in an area that has much human activity.
- ✓ Actually (CO₂) detectors should be installed on every level of the home and in the heavily occupied areas of business.
- ✓ Place the alarm at least 15 feet away from fuel-burning appliances.
- ✓ Make sure that there is nothing covering or obstructing the unit.
- ✓ Do not install the unit in dead air spaces or next to a window or door.
- ✓ Test the alarm once a month by pressing the test/reset button.
- ✓ Every month, unplug the unit and vacuum, with a soft-brush attachment or wipe with a clean, dry cloth to remove accumulated dust.

Action to take in case the alarm goes off-

If an individual is experiencing (CO₂) symptoms, you need to get everyone out into fresh air and call 9-1-1- from a neighbor's phone or your own cell phone (if you have one).

If no one is experiencing symptoms then you should call your fire department or a qualified technician from a neighbor's phone to have them inspect the problem.

If it isn't possible for you to leave the home to call for help, then you should open all the windows and doors, and turn off possible sources that emit carbon monoxide and wait for help to arrive.

Under no circumstances should you ignore the alarm.

DO:

- Strongly consider installing CO₂ detection in your home.
- Install them in central areas outside the sleeping areas and on each level of your home.
- Make sure that vents for dryers, stove, furnace, and fireplaces are free of debris.

DON'T:

- Use portable generators in poorly ventilated areas.
- Start any type of rolling vehicle inside an enclosed area.
- Use cooking grills or camp stoves inside an enclosed area.

**SAFE AT HOME & WORK
NOT JUST FOR BASEBALL!!**

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CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

SAVE LIVES!!

UNPREPARED = UNSAFE