

Carbon Monoxide Safety

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is called the invisible killer because you can't see it, taste it, or smell it.

Carbon Monoxide is:

- *Poisonous*
- *Colorless*
- *Odorless*
- *Tasteless*

Protect Your Family: Install CO Alarms

- Install carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home, except in unfinished basements or attics.
- Locate CO alarms near bedrooms so they can wake up sleeping family at night.
- Know the difference between the alarm signal and the low battery alert.
- Test your CO alarms monthly.

Replace Aging Alarms

- Replace aging CO alarms every 5 -7 years according to directions. Alarms are stamped with the date of manufacture. If an alarm does not have a date, or you don't know how old it is, replace it.
- Newer CO alarms have a 10-year sealed battery that does not need changing. At 10 years, the entire device is replaced.

Sources of CO:

- *Furnaces and water heaters*
- *Chimneys and woodstoves*
- *Gas and oil fueled space heaters*
- *Blocked furnace and dryer vents*
- *Car tailpipes blocked by snow*
- *Generators*
- *Running vehicles*
- *Barbecue grills and camping stoves*
- *Gas ovens used for heat*
- *Gas tools such as snow removal and yard equipment*

Appliances and CO Safety

If appliances are not working properly or are used incorrectly, dangerous levels of CO can result.

- Have a qualified service technician inspect your appliances yearly, before the heating season.
- Have a licensed professional clean your chimney and check for cracked and broken mortar annually.
- Clear snow from furnace and dryer vents after storms.

Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning

Exposure to carbon monoxide can produce flu-like symptoms such as:

- Headache
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Confusion
- Fainting

At higher levels, CO exposure can cause unconsciousness and death.

More Information

For more information on smoke and CO alarms, call your local fire department or visit www.mass.gov and search for Smoke Alarms or CO Alarms.

Test Smoke and CO
Alarms Monthly