



SOUTH HERO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ***"A Proud Island Tradition"***

Carbon Monoxide Facts

If your Carbon Monoxide Alarm Goes Off:

- Never ignore an alarming CO detector/alarm. If the detector/alarm sounds, make sure everyone exits the house immediately. Call 911 from a neighbor's house or from a cell phone from outside the house. Do NOT go back in until after the Fire Department arrives and determines the reason for the alarm.
- If you are unable to leave the house open all windows and doors and turn off all sources of Carbon Monoxide and call 911.
- **Under no Circumstances should a CO Alarm be ignored!!!**

What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. It is produced by the incomplete burning of solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels. Appliances fueled with natural gas, liquefied petroleum (LP gas), oil, kerosene, coal, or wood may produce CO. Burning charcoal produces CO. Running cars produce CO.

Every year, over 200 people in the United States die from CO produced by fuel-burning appliances (furnaces, ranges, water heaters, room heaters). Others die from CO produced while burning charcoal inside a home, garage, vehicle or tent. Still others die from CO produced by cars left running in attached garages. Several thousand people go to hospital emergency rooms for treatment for CO poisoning.

What are the symptoms of CO poisoning?

The initial symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever). They include:

- **Headache**
- **Fatigue**
- **Shortness of breath**
- **Nausea**
- **Dizziness**

****Many people with CO poisoning mistake their symptoms for the flu or are misdiagnosed by physicians, which sometimes results in tragic deaths.***



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How to avoid CO poisoning

- Make sure appliances are installed according to manufacturer's instructions and local building codes. Professionals should install most appliances. Have the heating system (including chimneys and vents) inspected and serviced annually. The inspector should also check chimneys and flues for blockages, corrosion, partial and complete disconnections, and loose connections.
- Install a CO detector/alarm that meets the requirements of the current UL standard 2034 or the requirements of the IAS 6-96 standard. A carbon monoxide detector/alarm can provide added protection, but is no substitute for proper use and upkeep of appliances that can produce CO. Install a CO detector/alarm in the hallway near every separate sleeping area of the home. Make sure furniture or draperies cannot cover up the detector.
- Never burn charcoal inside a home, garage, vehicle, or tent.
- Never use portable fuel-burning camping equipment inside a home, garage, vehicle, or tent.
- Never leave a car running in an attached garage, even with the garage door open.
- Never service fuel-burning appliances without proper knowledge, skills, and tools. Always refer to the owner's manual when performing minor adjustments or servicing fuel-burning appliances.
- Never use gas appliances such as ranges, ovens, or clothes dryers for heating your home.
- Never operate unvented fuel-burning appliances in any room with closed doors or windows or in any room where people are sleeping.
- Do not use gasoline-powered tools and engines indoors.

Don't forget, as of 2005, installation of CO detectors in residences is required by Law!