



Carbon Monoxide Alarms: Save Lives

Carbon Monoxide can't be seen or smelled, but it can kill

Senate Bill SB183 will require all single-family homes with an attached garage or a fossil fuel source to install carbon monoxide detectors within the home by July 1, 2011. Owners of multi-family leased or rental dwellings, such as apartment buildings, have until January 1, 2013 to comply with the law.

Know the Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning:

- Severe headaches
- Dizziness
- Mental confusion
- Nausea
- Fainting



Since many of the symptoms for CO poisoning are similar to those of the flu, food poisoning and other illnesses, you may not think that CO poisoning is the cause. CO can't be smelled or seen, making it very dangerous.

Preventing Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning:

If you experience symptoms that you think can be from CO poisoning

- Call 911
- Get fresh air immediately. Open doors and windows, turn off combustion appliances and leave the house
- Do not re-enter the premises until cleared by emergency personnel
- Go to an emergency room and tell the physician you suspect CO poisoning. If CO poisoning has occurred, it can often be diagnosed by a blood test done soon after exposure

Safety Tips:

- Install CO alarms outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. The CO alarm can warn you if too much CO is in your home
- Keep CO alarms clear of dust and debris
- Ensure CO alarms are plugged all the way into a working outlet, or if battery operated, have working batteries

Prevention is the Key to Avoiding Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:

Do have fuel-burning appliances inspected by a trained professional at the beginning of every heating season. Make sure flues and chimneys are connected and in good condition

Do Not idle the car in a garage, even if the garage door to the outside is open

Do read and follow all instructions that come with any fuel-burning device

Do Not use a gas oven to heat your home, even for a short period and do not use a charcoal grill in doors

Do choose appliances that vent their fumes to the outside whenever possible, have them properly installed, and maintain them according to manufacturers' instructions

Do Not ignore symptoms, particularly if more than one person is feeling them