

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

LISTENING FOR THE SILENT KILLER

WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?

Each year hundreds of people die from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Many of these deaths could have been prevented by CO alarms in the home. CO is an invisible, odorless gas that is produced by burning wood, coal, charcoal, natural gas, gasoline, propane, oil, methane, and other common fuels.

CO is also produced by automobiles and other gasoline or diesel engines. Electrical equipment does not produce carbon monoxide.

WHAT IS THE DANGER?

CO enters your body, undetected, through your breathing. CO Poisoning can be confused with the flu, food poisoning, or other illness. Symptoms include headache, nausea, dizziness, light-headedness, and shortness of breath. High levels of CO can cause death within just a few minutes. A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a long period of time or by a large amount of CO over a short period of time.

INSTALL CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS IN YOUR HOME

Buy only CO alarms that bear the label of an independent testing laboratory. Install a CO alarm in a central location outside your home's sleeping areas. If sleeping areas are spaced far apart, each area will need a CO alarm. Be sure everyone in your household knows the difference between the sound of a smoke alarm and the sound of a CO alarm and knows the right number to call in an emergency.

WHEN YOU HEAR THE SOUND OF A CO ALARM.....

Go to a fresh air location and call for help. Stay out of the building until emergency personnel tell you it is safe. If the trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries or other problems.