

Beverly Hills Fire Department

Presents:

Carbon Monoxide Alarms



What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a gas that can't be seen, has no taste and can't be smelled. It's created when such fuels such as wood, coal, gasoline, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane burn incompletely.

Facts:

Carbon Monoxide is also known as the silent killer. 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.

January and December are peak months for non-fire CO incidents because of higher use of fuel burning heating equipment.

Safety Tips:

Have your fuel-burning equipment inspected by a professional every year. Make sure all fuel operated equipment is free from damage.

Keep dryers, stove, furnaces, and fireplace vents clear of ice, snow, dirt, leaves, and other debris.

Never use your oven to heat your home.

Only use BBQ grills and generators outside away from all doors, windows and vent openings.

Install CO alarms outside each separate sleeping area, on every level of the home, and in other locations where required by laws, codes or standards.

Follow manufacturers instructions for placement. Especially combination detectors.

Test CO alarms at least once a month, and replace alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions.

If the CO alarm sounds...

Call 911 and immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open door or window.

Make sure everyone is accounted for.



Dangers of CO:

CO enters your body as you breath.

CO is a gas that you can't see, taste or smell.

CO can be confused with the flu, food poisoning and other symptoms.

Early signs and symptoms of exposure is:

- Headaches
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Light-headedness
- Shortness of breath

Extreme high levels of CO can cause death within minutes.



NFPA Facts:

Almost 9 out of every 10 (89%) of reported non-fire carbon monoxide incidents happen in the home.