Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous, colorless and odorless gas that can be found inside your home. Dangerous concentrations of this gas can build up in enclosed spaces when a fuel-burning appliance or machine is not working or vented properly. People and animals who breathe in this gas can become very ill, or worse. Fortunately, CO poisoning can be easily prevented by taking simple precautions, such as installing CO detectors throughout your home and maintaining fuel-burning appliances.

Properly Install & Maintain CO Detectors

› **Install CO detectors throughout your home.** These devices sound an alarm when they sense a certain amount of CO over time. Install them in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home. For the best protection, interconnect all CO detectors throughout the home so when one sounds, they all sound.

› **Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.**

› **Test CO detectors at least once a month.** A non-working CO detector may leave you and your family unprotected. Test a CO detector by pressing and holding the test button. If you don't hear anything, or the sound is quiet, it's time to replace the batteries. We recommend you change your batteries the same time that you change your clocks for daylight saving time—so it's easy to remember.

› **Learn your CO detector's beep patterns.** CO detectors have different beep patterns to communicate whether there is an emergency or simply a need to replace the unit or batteries. Read your device's instruction manual for more information.

› **Replace your CO detectors every five to seven years.** CO detectors don't last forever. Follow the manufacturer's replacement instructions.

› **Also install smoke alarms.** It's important to have both CO detectors and smoke alarms installed throughout your home. Combination CO and smoke alarms can be purchased at a wide variety of retail stores. If you have separate ones, make sure you recognize the sound that each alarm makes.

What To Do If Your CO Detector Goes Off

If your CO detector goes off, immediately move outside to a location with fresh air and call 9-1-1. Make sure everyone inside your home is accounted for. Stay outside until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter your home.

CO Poisoning Facts

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 amount of time.*

Each year, around 50,000 people in the U.S. visit the emergency room because of accidental CO poisoning.*

*Source: www.nfpa.org

Home Heating Safety

Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in. When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation. Never use your oven to heat your home.