

Legislation to save lives.



The 2006 legislative session passed a new carbon monoxide (CO) law (MN § 299F.50) requiring CO alarms in all single-family homes and multi-family dwelling units.

Effective **January 1, 2007** all newly constructed single-family homes and multi-family dwelling units for which building permits were issued on or after January 1, 2007 shall be provided with approved carbon monoxide alarms.

Effective **August 1, 2008** all existing single-family homes shall be equipped with approved carbon monoxide alarms.

Effective **August 1, 2009** all multi-family dwelling units shall be provided with approved CO alarms.

Acute CO poisoning contributes to more than 2,000 deaths in the United States annually. In addition, the US CPSC estimates that 8,000 to 15,000 people each year are examined or treated in hospitals for CO poisoning.



www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/fire

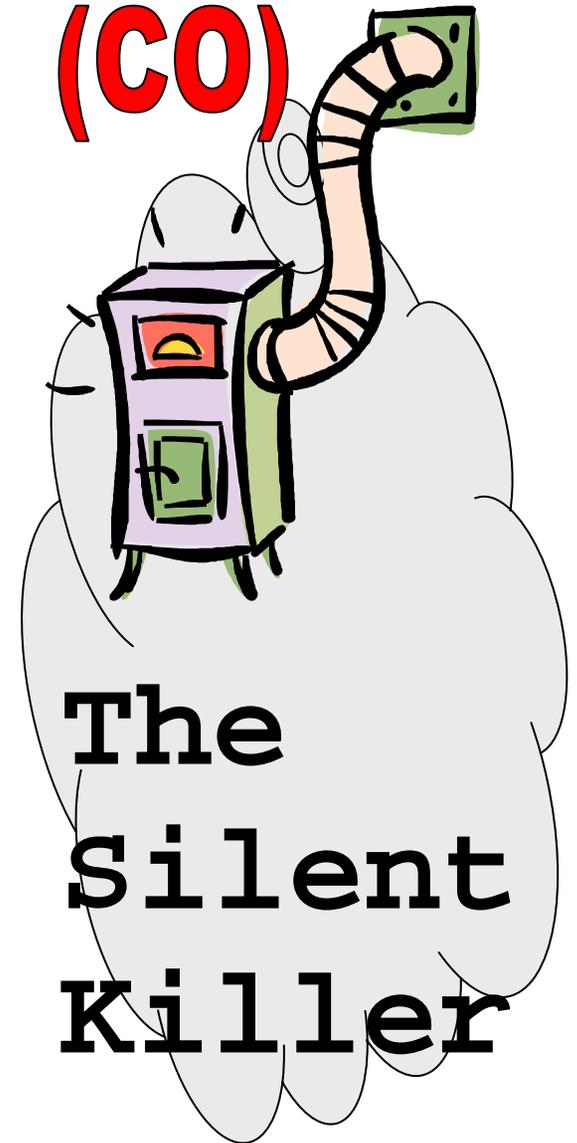
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CARBON MONOXIDE

(CO)



The Silent Killer



What is CO?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a by-product of combustion of fossil fuels. Fumes from automobiles contain high levels of CO. Appliances such as furnaces, space heaters, clothes dryers, ranges, ovens, water heaters, charcoal grills, fireplaces and wood-burning stoves produce CO. Carbon monoxide is usually vented to the outside if appliances function correctly and the home is vented properly. Problems occur when a furnace heat-exchanger cracks, or vents and chimneys become blocked. Insulation can trap CO in the home.

How does CO affect me?

Carbon monoxide is a deadly gas. It can kill you before you know it, because you can't see it, taste it or smell it. At lower levels of exposure, it can cause health problems. Some are very vulnerable to CO poisoning, including fetuses, infants, children, senior citizens and those with heart or lung problems.

When CO is breathed in, it accumulates in the blood and forms a toxic compound known as carboxyhemoglobin (COHb). COHb can cause headaches, fatigue, nausea, dizzy spells, confusion and irritability. Later stages of CO poisoning can bring vomiting, loss of consciousness and eventually, brain damage and death.

The Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation studied 230 patients treated for moderate-to-severe CO poisoning and found that 37 % suffered heart muscle injury. Of that group nearly 25% died within seven years.

How do I choose a CO alarm?

- Reasonable price
- Easy to use, install & replace
- Protection from chronic, low-level CO exposure
- Protection from acute, lethal CO exposure
- Accurate measurement of CO
- Self-calibrating and self-zeroing
- Memory capability for past events
- Minimal interference from other pollutants & chemicals
- Digital readout of CO concentrations
- Portability: small size and light weight,
- Easy-to-understand operating manual
- Clear instructions and warning tags on the unit

All carbon monoxide alarms must conform to the latest Underwriters Laboratories (U/L) Standards.

Location, Testing

- Follow manufacturer's placement recommendations
- Test CO detectors at least once a month and replace detectors and batteries according to manufacturer's instructions.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

DO NOT

function as smoke alarms
and
smoke alarms

DO NOT

function as
Carbon Monoxide Alarms.

What do I do when the alarm sounds?

Treat all alarms as real emergencies. Evacuate everyone from your home immediately, leaving the door open for ventilation on your way out.

Call 911 from a neighbor's home.

Have your home inspected and your CO leak repaired by professionals.