

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless, invisible gas. Any flame-fueled (not electric) device will form carbon monoxide. Vehicles running inside a garage, furnaces, water heaters, ranges, space heaters etc. all operate with a flame and will produce carbon monoxide. If not vented properly, (maybe a blocked chimney) carbon monoxide builds up in the home and can cause carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Carbon monoxide poisoning occurs when carbon monoxide is inhaled. Don't forget carbon monoxide is odorless, tasteless and invisible. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning might be flu or cold like symptoms, shortness of breath, mild headaches, and nausea. If the levels of carbon monoxide become elevated enough carbon monoxide poisoning may cause permanent brain damage or even death.

Carbon Monoxide detectors are available and all homes should have at least one on each level. They should be placed on a wall about 5 feet above the floor or on a ceiling preferably close to the sleeping area of the home.

Carbon monoxide detectors do not detect smoke. Combination units that will detect either smoke or carbon monoxide are available however.

If the Carbon Monoxide Detector sounds an alarm TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY.

1. EVACUATE THE HOME.
2. SEEK MEDICAL HELP IF ANYONE HAS EXPERIENCED SYMPTOMS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING. (Nausea, headaches, etc.)
3. VENTILATE the premises and CONTACT PROFESSIONALS TO INSPECT possible causes for the carbon monoxide build-up. (Find the source of the carbon monoxide. Is it a blocked chimney, malfunctioning furnace, or a car left to run in a garage, etc.?)

Remember – at high levels, breathing carbon monoxide can be fatal within minutes.

Call the Code Enforcement Office at 888-4410 if you have any questions regarding this topic.