

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas. It is a by-product of combustion when any fossil fuel is burned, including: wood, heating oil, charcoal, kerosene, LP Gas and natural gas. If any of these fuels are utilized as a heat source, a cooking source or a means to heat water in your home, we ask you to please follow these simple rules:

- Install a carbon monoxide alarm, which has a testing laboratory label such as FM or UL, on each level of your home.
- Have your oil or gas furnace serviced and inspected each year before heating season.
- When utilizing stand alone devices such as kerosene or LP Gas heaters, ensure you have a window or door slightly open to allow fresh air to enter the room.
- If you install any type of heater that burns a fossil fuel, contact your local building official to ensure the item is installed to the proper building code.
- Never cook on a charcoal grill or gas grill in your home, garage, vehicle or tent.
- Never utilize an appliance that is questionable or in need of being repaired.

Five Quick Tips

- Install a carbon monoxide alarm in your home if you utilize fossil fuel powered appliances.
- Always crack a window or door in a room with a kerosene or LP Gas heater.
- Never cook on an LP Gas or charcoal grill in your home, tent, garage, camper or vehicle.
- Never sleep in a room where a kerosene or LP Gas heater is burning.
- Be extremely cautious when burning fossil fuels around infants or the elderly as they are much more susceptible to carbon monoxide poisoning.

Proper Installation Tips

- Always consult with your local building official and fire department to ensure your installation is completed according to code requirements.
- Always follow all manufacturers' recommendations on proper heater size for the area utilized as well as directions on installation, maintenance and use.
- Never utilize a vented-typed heater without the proper ventilation and flue device (chimney).
- Install a carbon monoxide alarm the same day as the appliance installation.

Common causes are:

- Defective gas or oil furnaces and water heaters
- Running a car in an enclosed area
- Cracked chimney flues
- Closing the fireplace damper before the fire is completely out
- Indoor use of charcoal grills
- Use of a gas oven or range to warm a room



Over 200 people die each year as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning. Extended exposure to carbon monoxide fumes will cause the following symptoms:

- Headaches
- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Dizzy spells
- Confusion
- When these signs start appearing, they can often mimic someone coming down with "a touch of the flu."
- If you experience these symptoms and feel they are a result of carbon monoxide poisoning, cut off all fossil fuel appliances, move outside of the area to a fresh air source and call 9-1-1. Tell the first responders you possibly could have carbon monoxide poisoning.