

CARBON MONOXIDE DANGERS

Often called the invisible killer, Carbon Monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (like gasoline, wood, charcoal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely.

- Carbon Monoxide (CO) can come from a variety of sources, including cars, portable generators, and malfunctioning fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, ranges, water heaters and room heaters.
- Burning charcoal in fireplaces or grills inside a home, or in semi-enclosed areas can also result in lethal carbon monoxide levels.

Early symptoms of CO poisoning can be similar to food poisoning or the flu, but without the fever. As the concentration of carbon monoxide exposure becomes worse the symptoms may progress in severity, and may include:

- Headache
- Fatigue, Weakness, and Sleepiness
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea and Vomiting
- Lightheadedness and Dizziness
- Mental Confusion
- Visual Difficulty



- Make sure appliances are installed and operated according to the manufacturer's instructions and local building codes.
- Fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys should be inspected by a qualified professional every year.
- When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Do not use gas or charcoal grills inside the house.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage door is open.

Discussion

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Do you have working carbon monoxide alarms installed? If they are battery-operated, what plan is in place to regularly replace the batteries?