

# Carbon Monoxide

## **What Is Carbon Monoxide?**

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas produced whenever any fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. Exposure to lower levels of CO over several hours can be just as dangerous as exposure to higher levels for a few minutes! Carbon Monoxide cannot be seen nor smelled. However, constant exposure to acute levels of CO could cause health problems such as nausea, fatigue, headaches, amnesia, Parkinson's disease, and many more. And at high concentrations, Carbon Monoxide can even be fatal.

## **Who needs a CO Detector?**

People who live in single family residences, multiple family dwellings, or apartment buildings. Anyone with an appliance such as a Gas/oil furnace, Gas water heater, Gas dryer or anyone with a solid fuel burning appliance such as a Fireplace, Wood burning stove, Kerosene heater.

Dangerous levels of carbon monoxide can occur if these appliances are improperly installed/maintained, damaged, malfunctioning or improperly used/ventilated.

## **Where do you install CO Detectors?**

Installation locations vary by manufacturer. Manufacturers' recommendations differ to a certain degree based on research conducted with each one's specific detector. Therefore, make sure to read the provided installation manual for each detector before installing. The International Association of Fire Chiefs recommends a carbon monoxide detector on every floor of your home, including the basement. A detector should be located within 10 feet of each bedroom door and there should be one near or over any attached garage. Each detector should be replaced every five to six years.

## **What to do if your CO detector goes off?**

Get out!

Get fresh air.

Call 911

Seek medical attention if you have signs and symptoms of CO poisoning. (See below)

Don't go back into the building until it is cleared by the fire department.

## **What are possible Sign and Symptoms of CO poisoning?**

Headache

Fatigue

Sleepiness

Weakness

Nausea, vomiting

Dizziness, confusion