Carbon Monoxide Safety

Carbon monoxide (CO), often called the silent killer, is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels burn incompletely. Extremely high levels of poisoning can be fatal, causing death within minutes.

SAFETY TIPS

- **Install** CO alarms inside your home to provide early warning of carbon monoxide.
- **CO alarms should be installed** in a central location outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- **Follow** the manufacturer’s instructions for placement and mounting height.
- **Combination smoke and CO alarms must be installed** in accordance with requirements for smoke alarms.
- **Choose** a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- **Call** your local fire department’s non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- **Test** CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
- **If the audible trouble signal sounds**, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- **Have** fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in.
- **When using** a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation.
- **Never use** your oven to heat your home.
- **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 doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- **During and after a snowstorm**, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- **A generator should be used** in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- **Only use** barbecue grills — which can produce CO — outside.
- **Use** battery-powered lights in tents, trailers and motor homes and motor boats.
- **If the CO alarm sounds**, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel arrives to assist you.
- **CO alarms are not** substitutes for smoke alarms.