

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS



Prevent Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning!

Carbon monoxide is an invisible killer and can build up quickly. It is odorless and colorless, and can cause death in minutes.

Symptoms of CO poisoning can mimic viruses such as cold or flu and may include headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness, and confusion.

Do not ignore symptoms, particularly if more than one person is feeling them. If you suspect CO poisoning, get outside to fresh air immediately, and then call 9-1-1.

Carbon monoxide (CO) gas is created whenever a fossil fuel such as oil, wood, gas, charcoal or kerosene is burned. These are all commonly used within heating systems in our region. These factors raise potential for dangerous levels of carbon monoxide to build up in our homes. Basically, when people breathe in the gas it replaces oxygen in the body and can suffocate you before you realize what is happening.

Safety tips to follow.

- **DO** have your heating system and water heater serviced every year by a licensed, qualified professional. The company that delivers your fuel typically has HVAC technicians and is often a good choice, or the home inspector if you are in the process of purchasing a home.
- **DO** make sure your gas-powered equipment displays the seal of a national testing agency, such as Underwriter's Laboratories (UL). <https://ul.org>
- **DO** have your chimney checked to make sure it's not blocked by debris, which can cause CO to build up in homes and cabins.
- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- 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.
- 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.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO; only use them outside.
- 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 live in a rental unit, the owner of the rental unit shall be responsible for maintaining the automatic fire warning device and carbon monoxide detection device in a suitable condition.*

*NH RSA 153:10-a Automatic Fire Warning Devices and Carbon Monoxide Detection Devices in Dwellings

