

## Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- Provide early warning of accumulating CO in your home.
- Should be installed in a central location outside every sleeping area. CO alarms should be installed according to the manufactures instructions, usually high up on the wall.
- Test your CO alarms regularly to insure they are working properly, and change battery if needed. When the alarm sounds, leave the building and move to a location with plenty of fresh air. Call 911 and do not reenter building until it is cleared.



## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

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# Carbon Monoxide



HOWARD COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE  
AND RESCUE SERVICES



## What is Carbon Monoxide?

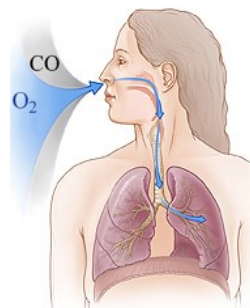
- Colorless, odorless, poisonous gas.
- Formed by the incomplete burning of fuels.

## What Produces CO?

- Appliances that use fuel may produce CO. Even burning charcoal or running cars will produce CO.
- Over 200 people in the U.S. die from CO produced by fuel burning appliances.
- Others died from charcoal being burned in a home, garage, or tent.
- Others die from CO produced by cars left running in attached garages.
- Thousands go the emergency room for CO poisoning.
- CO rises to dangerous levels due to poor ventilation. That is why it is important that you properly maintain the appliances in your home, and insure adequate ventilation in the building.

## What is CO Poisoning?

- CO enters the lungs through normal breathing.
- Inside the lungs, CO interrupts oxygen entering the blood stream.
- The lack of oxygen to the brain, heart, and other vital organs, causes flu like symptoms, minus the fever. Many people with CO poisoning mistake their symptoms for the flu or are misdiagnosed by physicians, sometimes resulting in death.



## How Much CO is Dangerous?

- Your overall health determines how CO affects you.
- Especially dangerous to: the elderly, pregnant women, young children, infants and pets.
- Level of damage depends on the time and concentration (ppm). Most won't be affected by anything below 70ppm. But above 70, symptoms begin. Over 150 and 200, can cause death.

## Prevention Tips

There are several steps you can take to protect yourself:

- Have heating systems inspected.
- Install a CO detector near every sleeping area.
- Never burn charcoal in a closed space.
- Never use portable fuel burning camping equipment in a closed space.
- Never leave car running without garage door open.
- Never use gas appliances such as stoves, ovens or clothes dryers for heating.
- Do not use gas powered tools and engines (including generators) indoors.

