



## Important information about Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Carbon Monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) - is a colorless, odorless and tasteless poisonous gas that can cause serious illness and, at high levels, death.

A Carbon Monoxide Source- includes any solid, liquid, or gaseous fuel-fired appliance, equipment, device, system, fireplace, garage, motor vehicle, or motor vehicle related occupancy that may emit carbon monoxide.

### HOW TO PREVENT CO POISONING:

Carbon monoxide is a silent killer since you cannot see it, smell it or taste it.

The **ONLY** safe way to detect it is with a carbon monoxide alarm.

**EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 22, 2010, Amanda's Law requires the installation of operable carbon monoxide alarms in all new and all existing buildings containing one or more carbon monoxide sources without regard to the date of construction of the building. CO alarms must be listed to comply with UL (Underwriters Laboratories) 2034 or CSA (Canadian Standards Association) 6.19 and installed in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.**

For additional information about Amanda's Law, please see:

<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/COtoolkit.htm>

In addition to installing carbon monoxide alarms, the Office of Fire Prevention and Control recommends the following:

- ❖ Test and/or replace carbon monoxide alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions;
- ❖ Never use gasoline-powered tools indoors;
- ❖ Never operate fuel-burning appliances without proper ventilation;
- ❖ Never burn charcoal inside a home, garage or tent;
- ❖ Have heating systems, vents, chimneys and flues tested, inspected and cleaned by a qualified technician each year;
- ❖ Regularly examine vents and chimneys for improper connections, rust, soot or other debris;
- ❖ Never run a vehicle, generator or other fuel powered motor indoors or in an attached garage, even if garage doors are open to the outdoors;
- ❖ Never use gas appliances such as an oven to heat your home;
- ❖ Only use barbecue grills outdoors – never in a house or garage;
- ❖ Remember that carbon monoxide alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should also be installed on every level of a home as well as in or outside all sleeping areas.



The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends CO alarms be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.

**SYMPTOMS OF CO POISONING MAY INCLUDE:**

- ❖ Headache
- ❖ Dizziness
- ❖ Weakness
- ❖ Shortness of breath
- ❖ Sleepiness
- ❖ Nausea
- ❖ Vomiting
- ❖ Confusion

Chronic CO poisoning can also occur. It is commonly mistaken for chronic fatigue syndrome, viral or bacterial pulmonary or gastrointestinal infection. Exposure may have occurred for many days or months. Long-term exposure can produce serious and persistent health conditions.

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT CO POISONING:**

- Get fresh air immediately.
- Leave the area.
- See a physician for proper diagnosis.
- If you have an alarm, which sounds, operate the reset button.
- Call emergency services (Fire Department or 911).
- Turn off appliances or source of combustion.



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