

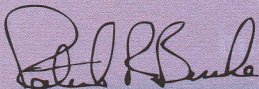
Message from the Ontario Fire Marshal

Protect Yourself and Your Family from the Dangers of Carbon Monoxide

Sometimes referred to as the “silent killer,” carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless, tasteless and toxic gas. Exposure to CO can cause flu-like symptoms such as headaches, nausea, dizziness, burning eyes, confusion, drowsiness or loss of consciousness. In severe cases, CO exposure can cause death. By being informed and taking the right steps, you may save lives. In addition to proper use and maintenance of fuel-burning devices, CO alarms should be installed as a second safety measure. Proper placement of alarms is important. Here are some tips to guide you:

- All alarms should be certified by the Canadian Standards Association CAN/CGA 6.19 standard or the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) 2034 standard.
- CO alarms monitor airborne concentration levels (parts per million) of carbon monoxide and sound an audible alarm when harmful CO levels are present.
- In general, you are most vulnerable to the effects of CO while sleeping. If you're only installing one alarm, it should be located near sleeping areas.
- If additional alarms are being installed, consider any other sleeping areas and other rooms where combustion devices are located. For example, a room that contains a fuel-fired appliance (like your furnace), or near a potential source of CO (like a room adjacent to an attached garage).
- CO alarms can plug directly into an electrical outlet or can be battery operated. Follow manufacturer's recommendations. Combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms must be installed on the ceiling or high up on a wall.
- To work properly, a CO alarm should not be blocked by furniture, draperies or other obstructions to normal air flow.
- For smoke alarms, it is encouraged that one be installed on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. For best protection, install a smoke alarm in every bedroom.

Please take the time to educate yourself on CO safety and refer to the manufacturer's instructions for additional information regarding proper installation, use and maintenance of your alarms. And remember, CO alarms are a good second line of defence, but do not eliminate the need for regular inspection, maintenance and safe use of fuel-burning equipment.



Pat Burke, Ontario Fire Marshal

CO: Did You Know?

- Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced when fuels such as wood, propane, oil, natural gas, kerosene, gasoline, diesel, coal or charcoal do not burn properly.
- When fuel-burning devices are **properly installed, maintained and vented**, any CO produced by them will not stay inside the home.
- Remember to change the batteries in your CO alarms every year when you change your clocks. If your CO alarm plugs into the wall, double check to see if it needs fresh back-up batteries.
- If anyone is experiencing symptoms of CO exposure, seek medical help or call 911.
- If your CO alarm sounds, open windows and doors and evaluate the situation. If anyone is experiencing symptoms of CO exposure, seek medical help or call 911.