

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas that kills more than 250 people in the United States each year. You cannot taste, smell, see, or hear it. Because of these properties it is nicknamed the "silent killer". CO is produced by incomplete combustion. Usually, CO in homes is produced by malfunctioning fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, stoves or water heaters. It can also be caused by inadequate ventilation of these appliances. Prevention is the best step in avoiding CO poisoning. Have all of your fuel-burning appliances inspected regularly. Underwriter Laboratories recommends at least once a year.

When selecting a CO Detector select one that is listed as a "single station carbon monoxide detector." These detectors will detect elevated levels of carbon monoxide and sound an audible alarm.

Detector Installation

Install near sleeping areas and near fuel-burning appliances.

Follow the installation instructions that the manufacturer recommends.

- Proper installation is an important factor for optimum performance.
- Maintain your detector in accordance to manufacturer's requirements.

If your CO detector activates you should follow the recommended procedure that is included in your detector's use and instruction booklet. Normally, you should contact your fuel supplier (Gas Company) and a fuel-burning appliance maintenance company.

If any occupants are experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning the fire department should be contacted for emergency medical care. Symptoms include nausea, fatigue, headaches, confusion and breathing difficulty.