



LIRR Office of the Fire Marshal

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTION/ PREVENTION

Where does (CO) come from?

CO is a product of incomplete combustion. Any fuel-burning device has the potential to produce dangerous levels of CO gas. Examples of common devices that may emit CO include:

- Fuel-fired furnaces (not electric)
- Gas water heaters
- Fireplaces and wood stoves
- Gas stoves
- Non-electric space heaters
- Gas dryers
- Charcoal grills
- Lawnmowers, snowblowers, etc.
- Automobiles
- Gas powered generators

How can I tell if (CO) is present in my home?

Since carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless, and tasteless, the best way to alert your family is to install a carbon monoxide detector/ alarm to warn of the gas's build-up.



*Help Prevent
Fires on
LIRR Properties*

What is carbon monoxide (CO)?

Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas that can kill you if inhaled. You can not see it, smell it, or taste it. It is sometimes called the "silent killer" because it can take your life without warning. Most people that die in home fires die at night, while they are asleep. They don't wake up because the CO puts them into a deeper sleep. They are unable to respond and escape.

What are symptoms of (CO) poisoning?

The symptoms of CO poisoning are flu-like, including headache, fatigue, nausea, dizziness, and confusion. Prolonged exposure can result in vomiting, blackouts, and, eventually, brain damage and death. The amount of CO inhaled and how long you are exposed to it determines the effect.



A Common Home CO Detector

What can be done to prevent (CO) poisoning?

- Make sure appliances are installed according to the manufacturer's instructions and by professionals.
- Have heating systems inspected and serviced at least once a year.
- Make sure chimneys and vents are checked for blockages, corrosion, and loose connections.
- Open flues completely when fireplaces are in use.
- Use proper fuel in space heaters.
- Never burn charcoal or a barbecue grill inside a home or enclosed space.
- Never use portable fuel-burning camping equipment inside a home, garage, vehicle, or tent.
- Never leave a car, mower, or other such item running in an attached garage, even with the garage door open.
- Never operate unvented fuel-burning appliances in any room where people are sleeping.
- Never use the kitchen range for heating a house.
- Never run a gas powered generator in a garage, basement, or near any overhang on the home. Keep it at a distance.

Where should (CO) detectors be installed?

CO is almost identical in weight to air and thus mixes freely in it. For this reason, alarms may be installed at any level in a room. If the detector is being mounted on a ceiling, it should be installed away from existing smoke alarms in order to be able to distinguish between the CO and smoke alarms in an emergency. Every home should be equipped with at least one CO alarm near the sleeping area. For maximum protection, additional alarms should be located on each level of your home.

What should I do if the (CO) alarm sounds?

Stay calm. Most situations resulting in activation of a CO detector are not life threatening and do not require calling the fire department. To determine if emergency services should be called, ask everyone in the house: "**Do you feel ill?** Do you have flu-like symptoms of headache, nausea, or dizziness?" If the answer to these questions by anyone in the house is "yes," evacuate the house and have someone call the fire department.