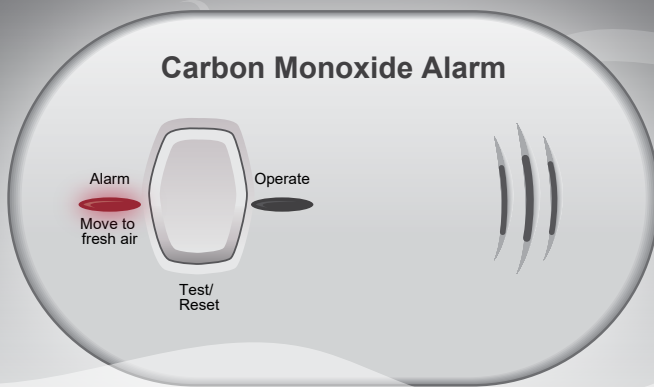


# CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS



## YOU CAN'T SEE OR SMELL CARBON MONOXIDE, BUT IT CAN KILL

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that often goes undetected, striking victims caught off guard or in their sleep. Called the "invisible killer," carbon monoxide is produced by burning fuel in vehicles, small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, gas ranges, portable generators or furnaces. When the gas builds up in enclosed spaces, people or animals who breathe it can be poisoned. Ventilation does not guarantee safety.

Winter can be a prime time for carbon monoxide poisoning as people turn on their heating systems and mistakenly warm their cars in garages. So, as the weather turns colder, it is important to take extra precautions. Carbon monoxide poisoning can occur when a fuel-burning appliance or machine, such as a furnace, heater or generator, is not working or vented properly.

Many reported cases of carbon monoxide poisoning explain that while victims are aware they are not well, they become so disoriented that they are not able to save themselves by leaving the building or calling for assistance. Carbon monoxide alarms are designed to alert residents before exposure to CO causes a health hazard.

Every home should have a carbon monoxide alarm, especially those that have an attached garage, natural gas or propane furnace, natural gas range or oven, or a gas or wood-burning fireplace.

A carbon monoxide alarm may be battery powered, and is required outside of each sleeping area or bedroom, and on each level of the home.

## THE SYMPTOMS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

SHORTNESS OF BREATH  
NAUSEA  
DIZZINESS  
HEADACHES  
CONFUSION  
FAINTING



AND  
EVENTUALLY  
DEATH



## PREVENT CO POISONING

**PLAY IT SAFE** - If you experience symptoms that you think could be from CO poisoning:

- **CALL 911** or your local emergency number.
- **GET FRESH AIR IMMEDIATELY.** Open doors and windows, turn off combustion appliances and leave the house.
- **DO NOT** re-enter the premises until cleared by emergency personnel.
- **GO TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM** and tell the physician you suspect CO poisoning. If CO poisoning has occurred, it can often be diagnosed by a blood test done soon after exposure.

January 2022

## DID YOU KNOW...

**Per the American Medical Association, carbon monoxide poisoning is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States.**



## INDOOR FIRE SAFETY

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

[WWW.FIRE.CA.GOV/PROGRAMS/COMMUNICATIONS/](http://WWW.FIRE.CA.GOV/PROGRAMS/COMMUNICATIONS/)  
[WWW.FIRE.CA.GOV](http://WWW.FIRE.CA.GOV)