

CARBON MONOXIDE

What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that kills, unless detected early. CO is a by-product of incomplete combustion of any fossil fuels such as natural gas, propane, heating oil, kerosene, coal, charcoal, gasoline or wood burn etc.

What are the symptoms of CO poisoning?

CO kills by displacing the oxygen in your blood. When CO replaces enough oxygen, your body begins to suffocate from the inside out, initially causing flu-like symptoms:

- Headaches
- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Drowsiness
- Confusion

Don't confuse these symptoms with those of the flu or the start of a cold. As the CO level increases, it can cause unconsciousness, brain damage and later - **DEATH**. If you experience any of the above symptoms remove yourself from the home and call **911**.

What are the sources of CO?

Almost every home has potential sources of CO. Older homes are susceptible because of malfunctioning appliances and faulty ventilation. Due to today's more energy efficient air tight homes, the risk of CO poisoning may be even higher.

- Fuel Burning Furnace with leaky pipe or flue or cracked heat exchanger
- Gas Appliances (gas range, clothes dryer, refrigerator)
- Gas Water Heater
- Clogged Chimney
- Fireplace
- Wood Stove
- Space Heater
- Attached Garage (automobile exhaust)
- Gas Barbecues