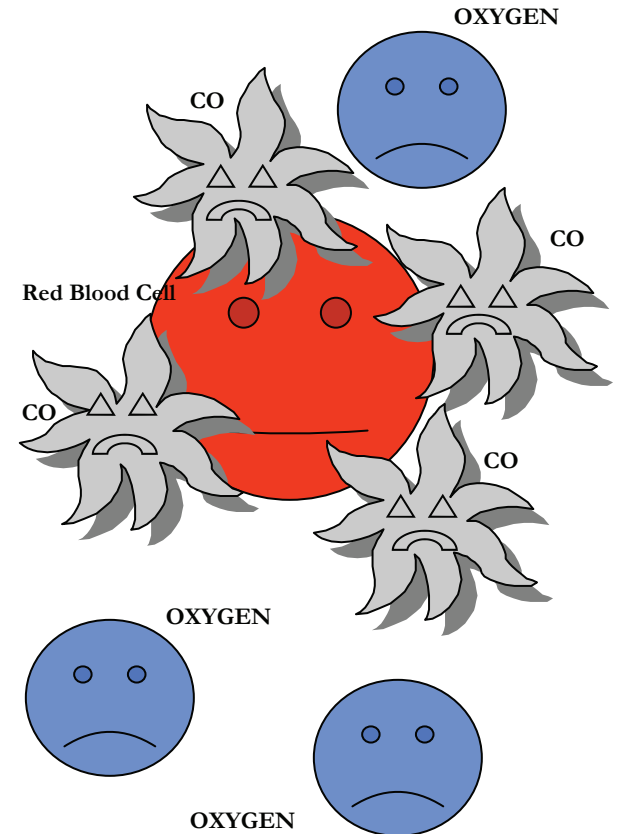


The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends every home have at least one carbon monoxide alarm installed near the sleeping area. The International Association of Fire Chiefs recommends alarms be located on every level for additional protection.

Information provided by **First Alert**

Carbon monoxide is the #1 cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America

What You Should Know About CARBON MONOXIDE



This important information is brought to you by:



The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends that every home be equipped with at least one carbon monoxide alarm near the sleeping area of the home.

Because victims of CO poisoning will slip deeper into unconsciousness as their CO condition worsens, a loud alarm is necessary to wake them.

For maximum protection, place one carbon monoxide alarm on every level of your home.

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What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a tasteless, colorless, odorless gas that is produced by burning fuel.

How can CO harm me?

☀ The oxygen we breathe attaches itself to the red blood cells in our blood stream. Carbon monoxide will attach to our red blood cells blocking the oxygen we need to live.

☀ In fact, carbon monoxide will form a bond with the blood that is 200 times as strong as with oxygen.

☀ When this happens, less oxygen is available to the body. CO can cause headaches, dizziness, and sleepiness. As more CO is absorbed, nausea and vomiting can occur.

☀ High amounts of CO can quickly cause unconsciousness and even death, depending on the length of exposure, your physical condition and activity.

Remember, if you have any of these symptoms and if you feel better when you go outside your home and the symptoms reappear once you're back inside, you may have CO poisoning.

What causes CO?

Any home appliance burning a fuel such as natural gas, fuel oil, propane, kerosene, wood or wood products is a potential CO source.

Fuel burning appliances that are not properly vented or have clogged exhaust pipes can cause fatal CO levels in your home.

Furnaces that are not properly adjusted can produce large amounts of CO.



How can I prevent CO in my home?

1. Once a year, have your furnace checked by a trained service technician who can find hidden problems and correct them.
2. Have your chimney flue checked for leaks or blockages.
3. Do not use any unvented space heaters or kerosene heaters in your home.
4. Never use your gas stove or oven for heat; it can produce deadly amounts of CO in a very short time.
5. Have all your gas appliances checked for proper operation and ventilation yearly.
6. Do not patch any vent pipe with tape or other substances, have them replaced.
7. Make sure that all vent pipes go uphill to the chimney flue.
8. When you select gas equipment, buy only those that carry the seal of a national testing agency, such as the American Gas Association or Underwriters Laboratory.
9. If you plan to convert any fuel burning appliance from one fuel to a different fuel, make sure it is done by an expert.