

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning

What Is Carbon Monoxide?

- Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas. You cannot see it or smell it. Too much CO is dangerous. It can even kill people who breathe it.
- CO can build up in your home when equipment and appliances that burn fuel are not working properly.
- You should have a service person check your furnace, heating system, gas range, fireplace or woodstove once a year. They will know if it isn't working right and needs repairs. **Picture 1**
- Use equipment and appliances the right way. Use the oven for cooking only. Never use it to heat your home because it could produce too much CO.
- Never run a barbecue grill, generator, or any motor in your home or garage – even with the door open. These produce CO when you use them. Use them only outdoors and away from windows. **Picture 2**

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- If your home has any fuel-burning equipment or appliances, you need a carbon monoxide (CO) detector. If your garage is attached to your home, you also need a CO detector.
- A CO detector is different from a smoke detector. A CO detector will sound an alarm to warn you if too much CO is in your home. **Picture 3**
- Install a CO detector near the areas where your family sleeps. Know the sound the CO detector makes if too much CO is in the air.
- Go outside quickly if the CO detector sounds. Call 9-1-1. Your fire department will find out what made it go off. They will let you know when it is safe to go inside.

One more thing! Sickness from CO poisoning might seem like the flu at first. People who have CO poisoning do not have a fever. CO poisoning often affects more than one person in the home. **Picture 4**

