

CARBON MONOXIDE

THE “SENSELESS” KILLER

The poisonous gas that kills nearly 300 people in their homes each year has no odor, no taste and no color. This gas is carbon monoxide (CO), and it is truly a “senseless” killer. Burning any type of fuel produces Carbon Monoxide. Therefore, any fuel-burning appliance in your home is a potential CO source.

When appliances are kept in good working condition, they produce little CO. However, appliances that are operating improperly can produce fatal levels of CO in your home. Likewise, using charcoal indoors or running a car in an attached garage can also cause CO poisoning. Carbon Monoxide poisoning can kill you.

The initial symptoms of CO are similar to the flu (but without the fever). They include* Dizziness* Fatigue* Headache* Nausea* Irregular breathing. Remember if you have any of these symptoms and if you feel better when you go outside of your house and the symptoms reappear once you're back inside, you may have CO poisoning.

What should you do?

- Make sure appliances are installed according to the manufacturer's instructions and local building codes. Most appliances should be installed by professionals.
- Have the heating system (including chimneys and vents) inspected and serviced annually.
- Follow the manufacturer's directions for safe operation.
- Examine vents and chimneys regularly for improper connections, visible rust or stains.
- Notice problems that could indicate improper appliance operation.
- Decreasing hot water supply.
- Furnace is unable to heat house or runs constantly.
- Sooting, especially on appliances.
- Unfamiliar or burning odor. CO often brings with it smells from other associated gases.

Sources of Carbon Monoxide

- 1 Room Heater
- 2 Furnace
- 3 Charcoal Grill
- 4 Range
- 5 Water Heater
- 6 Auto in closed garage
- 7 Fireplace

