

Prevent CO Poisoning

Every year, nearly 450 people die in the US from accidental CO poisoning. CO is found in fumes produced by portable generators, stoves, lanterns, gas ranges, furnaces or by burning charcoal and wood. CO from these sources can build up in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. People and animals in these spaces can be poisoned and can die from breathing CO.

When power outages occur after severe weather, using alternative sources of power can cause carbon monoxide (CO) to build up in the home.

The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain and confusion. People who are sleeping or who have been drinking alcohol can die from CO poisoning before ever showing symptoms.

CO POISONING PREVENTION TIPS

- ◆ Never use a gas range or oven to heat a home.
- ◆ Never leave the motor running in a vehicle parked in an enclosed or partially enclosed space, such as a garage.
- ◆ Never run a generator or any gasoline-powered engine inside a basement, garage or any other enclosed structure, unless the equipment is professionally installed and vented.
- ◆ Keep vents and flues free of debris, especially if winds are high.
- ◆ Never use a charcoal grill, hibachi, lantern, or portable camping stove inside a home, tent or camper.

CO LEVELS and RISKS

Concentration	Symptoms
35 ppm (0.0035%)	Headache and dizziness within six to eight hours of constant exposure
100 ppm (0.01%)	Slight headache in two to three hours
200 ppm (0.02%)	Slight headache within two to three hours; loss of judgment
400 ppm (0.04%)	Frontal headache within one to two hours
800 ppm (0.08%)	Dizziness, nausea, and convulsions within 45 min; insensible within 2 hours
1,600 ppm (0.16%)	Headache, tachycardia, dizziness, and nausea within 20 min; death in less than 2 hours
3,200 ppm (0.32%)	Headache, dizziness and nausea in five to ten minutes. Death within 30 minutes.
6,400 ppm (0.64%)	Headache and dizziness in one to two minutes. Convulsions, respiratory arrest, and death in less than 20 minutes.
12,800 ppm (1.28%)	Unconsciousness after 2-3 breaths. Death in less than three minutes.

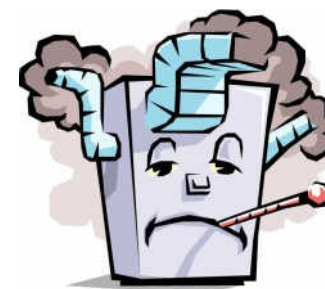
Grand Island Fire Department

Carbon

Monoxide:

The Silent

Killer



FIRE SAFETY
We all take part

“ THE SILENT KILLER ”

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, highly toxic gas that is undetectable to the human senses. Because of this, victims may become disoriented and unable to call for help or unable to get out.

Carbon Monoxide poisoning can occur anywhere - at home, in your car, on your boat, at a public place, in an RV or at work. It is a by-product of combustion, present wherever fuel is burned. It is found in, but not limited to:

- ◆ Anything with a motor
- ◆ Heating systems and appliances
- ◆ Natural or liquefied petroleum (LP) gas (propane)
- ◆ Fire and smoke
- ◆ Gas powered generators
- ◆ Cooking appliances and grills
- ◆ Motorized vehicle exhaust
- ◆ Propane-powered equipment
- ◆ Tobacco smoke

More than 1/2 of all unintentional, non-fire related carbon monoxide poisoning deaths involve motor vehicles.

At least 1/3 of these deaths occur in the wintertime when vehicles are left running without proper ventilation.

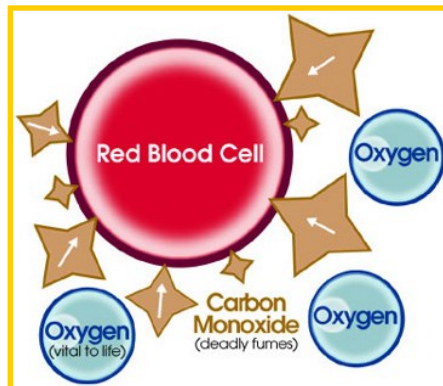
**Carbon Monoxide can kill
in as little as 10 minutes.**



POTENTIAL SOURCES OF CARBON MONOXIDE IN THE HOME

HOW DOES CO POISONING WORK?

Red blood cells pick up CO quicker than they pick up oxygen. If there is a lot of CO in the air, the body may replace oxygen in the blood with CO. This blocks oxygen from getting into the body, which can damage tissues and may result in death.



CO DETECTORS

CO detectors sound an alarm when unacceptable levels of CO are in the air. Without testing instruments, CO is virtually impossible to detect.

- ◆ Look for UL approval, standard 2034 or IAS 6-96 detectors.
- ◆ Install detectors on every level of the home near sleeping areas, in the vicinity of the heating unit, in RVs and on boats.
- ◆ Be sure alarms can be heard from every sleeping area.
- ◆ Test CO detectors once a month and replace according to the manufacturer ' s instructions.
- ◆ A CO detector reading of 35 or higher is considered to be dangerous.
- ◆ If the CO detector alarm is making an intermittent sound, check the battery.
- ◆ If it is making a steady alarm or you aren ' t sure, leave immediately **even if you do not feel symptoms.**
- ◆ **Dial 911** and seek medical attention if you have symptoms.
- ◆ Never re-enter the home until you ' re told it is safe.

Grand Island Fire Department

100 East First Street, Grand Island, NE 68801
308-385-5444, Ext. 220

- ◆ Station 1
409 E. Fonner Park Rd. 385-5300
- ◆ Station 2
1720 N. Broadwell Ave. 385-5310
- ◆ Station 3
2310 S. Webb Road 385-5337
- ◆ Station 4
3690 W. State St. 385-5387