

Carbon Monoxide Talking Points

About the Carbon Monoxide Poison Prevention Act

- On July 1, 2011 new legislation will go into effect requiring homeowners to install carbon monoxide detectors in every California home. Previous laws only required newly-constructed homes to have CO alarms
- The state's new Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act (Senate Bill 183) requires owners of all existing single-family dwellings with an attached garage or a fossil fuel source to install CO alarm devices within the dwelling by July 1, 2011.
- Owners of multi-family leased or rental dwellings, such as apartment buildings, have until January 1, 2013 to comply with the law.

About Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

- Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas and is responsible for an average of 480 deaths and more than 20,000 emergency room visits annually nationwide.
- The California Air Resources Board cites 30 to 40 avoidable deaths occur in the state each year from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning.
- CO sources may include, but are not limited to, heaters, fireplaces, furnaces, appliances or cooking devices using coal, wood, petroleum products or other fuels emitting CO as a by-product of combustion.
- A statewide survey recently conducted by First Alert found that nearly nine in 10 California households (89%) are not in compliance with the national recommendation for the number of carbon monoxide detectors in a home set by the National Fire Protection Association.

Safety Tips

Follow these guidelines to help keep your family safer.

- Carbon monoxide (CO) is a deadly gas that you cannot see or smell.
- Put a CO alarm in your home. The CO alarm can warn you if too much CO is in your home.
- Install a CO alarm

If the alarm sounds

- Operate the test/silence button.
- Call local emergency services, fire department or 911.
- Move to fresh air – outdoors or by an open door or window. Do a head count to make sure all persons are accounted for.
- Do not re-enter the premises, or move away from the fresh air supply until first responders have cleared the re-entry

- If the CO Alarm sounds within 24 hours repeat the call to 911 and call a qualified appliance technician to investigate for sources of CO from fuel-burning equipment and appliances, and to inspect for proper operation of your home equipment.
- If problems are identified, have the equipment serviced right away.

- **Install a minimum of one CO alarm outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home including the basement.**
- Keep CO alarms clear of dust and debris.
- Ensure CO alarms are plugged all the way into a working outlet or, if battery operated, have working batteries.

NFPA Statistics

- In 2005, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 61,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of seven such calls per hour. The number of incidents increased 18 percent from 51,700 incidents reported in 2003. This increase is most likely due to the increased use of CO detectors, which alert people to the presence of CO.
- Approximately 15,200 people were treated annually during 2001-2003 in emergency departments
- During 2001-2002, an estimated 480 people died, on average, each year
- The peak time of day is between 6:00 p.m. and 9:59 p.m.
- January and December are the peak months for non-fire CO incidents.
- Almost 9 out of every 10 (89%) reported non-fire carbon monoxide incidents took place in the home.