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|  | Terryville Fire Department Best Practices | |
| | <u>Subject</u> Carbon Monoxide Incidents | BP# 3-06 |
| | <u>Authority</u> Chief of Department | Initiated 11/1/2015 Revised 4/1/2016 |

A. PURPOSE

1. Due to increased public awareness and the availability of carbon monoxide (CO) detectors for homes and businesses, the Terryville Fire Department is often called to investigate activated CO detectors and other CO related emergencies.

B. BACKGROUND

1. CO is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-irritating, toxic gas.
2. CO is a natural by-product of incomplete combustion from fuels such as gasoline, wood, coal, propane, oil and methane.
3. In a residence, heating & cooking equipment are possible sources of CO. Vehicles running in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of CO. When a faulty appliance or unusual condition exists, CO may be vented into areas where people are present.
4. CO has a vapor density of .968, which makes it slightly lighter than air.
5. All companies have been issued multi-gas meters for the front-line apparatus.

C. OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

1. Upon arrival, determine if any individuals are exhibiting signs of CO poisoning. If so, immediately evacuate the affected area and request EMS.
2. Using the CO or Multi-Gas Meter, take an initial reading at the front door of the premises, then continue investigation to find source of CO in premises.
3. If no one exhibits any symptoms of CO poisoning, evacuation is not necessary, unless a level of over 9 PPM is recorded by the meter.
4. If the source of the CO is not found in the building, the origin may be in an attached exposure or from outside the building.

5. The Incident Commander (IC) may request the utility company to respond if the units on scene shut off a gas appliance. The IC shall direct the property owner / representative to notify their private service provider if the units shut off the heating system.
6. For CO Incidents (Meter Readings of 9 PPM or less)
 - a. Inform occupant that the meters did not detect elevated levels of CO.
 - b. Ventilate building using natural openings.
 - c. Attempt to reset detector. If detector is more than 5 years old or does not have a reset, recommend they refer to the manufacturers instructions or replace detector.
 - d. Inform occupants that if detector activates again, that they should again call for the fire department to respond.
7. For CO Emergencies (Meter Readings greater than 9 PPM)
 - a. Readings of greater than 9 PPM shall not be considered normal. For higher levels, or when directed by the Incident Commander, all personnel shall use their SCBA while working in the affected area.
 - b. Inform occupants that they have a potentially dangerous level of CO.
 - c. Recommend that all persons leave the affected area.
 - d. Attempt to determine the cause of the CO.
 - e. If it is determined that an appliance is malfunctioning and thereby producing CO, it should be shut down.
 - f. Once source of the CO has been mitigated, ventilate the affected area.
 - g. Once the CO level has dropped to 9 PPM or less, the area may be reoccupied.
 - h. Attempt to reset detector. If detector is more than 5 years old or does not have a reset, recommend they refer to the manufacturers instructions or replace detector.
 - i. Inform occupants of the actions taken and that the utility or service company must respond.
8. All CO emergencies within a commercial building shall warrant response from the Town of Brookhaven Fire Marshal.