

Orchard Farm Fire Protection District Standard Operating Procedure

Division: 200 **Emergency Operations**
Section: 201 **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**
Subject: 201.03 **Carbon Monoxide Emergencies**



Supersedes: N/A

Approved By: 

Date: 03/18/2013

Date Last Reviewed: N/A

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PURPOSE:

To define the District's standard for calls relating to carbon monoxide

RESPONSIBILITY:

All District Personnel

PROCEDURES:

For carbon monoxide (CO) calls with no indication of illness or medical emergency, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. Responding units should have a CO detector and shall respond on the quiet.
2. Upon arrival, determinations should be made if anyone is complaining of symptoms characteristic of CO poisoning. If symptoms are present, an ambulance crew should be dispatched immediately with an urgent response.
3. If no symptoms of CO poisoning are present, crews are to make a cursory inspection of the building specifically to examine potential carbon monoxide sources for signs of damage, improper installation, improper use, or tampering. Potential sources may include:
 - a. Stoves
 - b. Ranges
 - c. Fireplaces
 - d. Portable kerosene heaters
 - e. Gas heaters
 - f. Space heaters

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- g. Furnaces
- h. Hot water heaters
- i. Vehicles
- j. Lawn Mowers
- k. Barbecue Grills

If symptoms of illness are present or develop; or for carbon monoxide (CO) calls with initial indications of illness or medical emergency, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. Responding units should have a CO detector and shall have an urgent response.
2. Crews will don SCBA and ensure the building is evacuated, investigate with a CO detector.
3. The following procedures shall be followed if elevated CO levels are found:
 - a. < 15 ppm – No elevated levels detected. Arrange for a follow up inspection at a later time. Discuss the signs of CO poisoning with the occupants and tell them if any signs are noticed evacuate immediately and call 911.
 - b. **> 15 ppm - Potentially dangerous levels of carbon monoxide have been detected.** Strongly encourage occupants to leave the building until the source of the CO can be determined and isolated or repairs can be made to faulty equipment. Open the buildings windows and ventilate the structure. Discuss the signs of CO poisoning with the occupants and tell them if any signs are noticed evacuate immediately and call 911.
 - c. **< 100 ppm - Potentially lethal levels of carbon monoxide have been detected.** Evacuate the building immediately. Open the buildings windows and ventilate the structure. Shut off the utilities to the building and contact the utility provider to lock them in the off position until the source of the CO can be determined and repairs made by a licensed contractor. Reentry to the building shall not be permitted until the CO levels have returned to a safe level.