

FQFire Safety Tips

Carbon Monoxide (CO)



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Every year FQFire responds to incidents involving carbon monoxide (CO). This deadly gas, known as The Silent Killer has been responsible for numerous deaths across the country and its presence should not be taken lightly.

Carbon Monoxide Facts

- CO is a product of incomplete combustion and is created by all fuel burning appliances and vehicles
- It is a gas that is colourless, tasteless, and odourless making it undetectable by human senses
- Exposure to CO can cause flu like symptoms including headaches, dizziness, nausea, increased heart rate and eventually death
- Despite common belief, CO is not actually heavier than air and can be found on all levels

Preventing Exposure to CO

- Have gas powered appliances (furnaces, water heaters, gas stoves, etc.) inspected by a trained professional
- Ensure there is no clutter around your furnace. Clutter is not only a fire hazard but also limits air flow into the furnace, creating a less efficient burn
- Have your chimney swept, especially if you use a wood burning stove
- Never run a vehicle or other fuel powered engine in a garage, even if the door is open. Move the vehicle outside immediately after starting it
- Keep generators outside and away from doors and windows
- Never barbecue or use a gas heater indoors
- Ensure outside vents for the furnace, stove, fireplace and dryer are clear of snow and ice

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- Install alarms outside each sleeping area, on every level of your home and in key areas such as near the furnace and entrance to the garage
- There are many alarms to choose from. It does not matter the type you get, as long as it is listed by a qualified testing laboratory such as UL
- It is recommended that you purchase combination smoke/CO alarms that are interconnected. That way, when one sounds, they all will sound
- If you hear a CO alarm sound, get outside and call 911. Remain outside until emergency crews say it's safe to return indoors. Do not try to ventilate the house.
- Carbon Monoxide alarms rarely false. If your alarm is going off, chances are you have CO in your house
- Test your alarms monthly and replace them when they have reached the end of their life. If they are battery operated, replace the batteries twice annually

Common Sources of Carbon Monoxide

1 Furnace	4 BBQ	7 Fuel Fired Fireplace
2 Water Heater	5 Stove	8 Blocked Vents or Chimney
3 Dryer	6 Car	9 Portable Fuel Fired Generator

Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning: HEADACHES, NAUSEA, DIZZINESS, BREATHLESSNESS, COLLAPSE, LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS

