

# Carbon Monoxide Alarms

You Can't See or Smell Carbon Monoxide, But It Can Kill You

*THE CALIFORNIA CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING PREVENTION ACT REQUIRES ALL HOMES WITH AN ATTACHED GARAGE OR A FOSSIL FUEL SOURCE (FIREPLACE, GAS STOVE, GAS FURNACE, ETC.) TO INSTALL CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS.*

YOU CAN'T SEE OR SMELL CARBON MONOXIDE, BUT AT HIGH LEVELS IT CAN KILL A PERSON IN MINUTES. CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) IS PRODUCED WHENEVER ANY FUEL SUCH AS GAS, OIL, KEROSENE, WOOD OR CHARCOAL IS BURNED.

IF APPLIANCES THAT BURN FOSSIL FUEL ARE MAINTAINED PROPERLY THE AMOUNT OF CO PRODUCED IS USUALLY NOT HAZARDOUS. HOWEVER, IF APPLIANCES ARE NOT WORKING PROPERLY OR ARE USED INCORRECTLY, DANGEROUS LEVELS OF CO CAN RESULT.



## KNOW THE SYMPTOMS

AT MODERATE LEVELS, YOU OR YOUR FAMILY CAN GET SEVERE HEADACHES, BECOME DIZZY, MENTALLY CONFUSED, NAUSEATED OR FAINT. YOU CAN EVEN DIE IF THESE LEVELS PERSIST FOR A LONG TIME. LOW LEVELS CAN CAUSE SHORTNESS OF BREATH, MILD NAUSEA, HEADACHES AND MAY HAVE LONGER TERM EFFECTS ON YOUR HEALTH. SINCE MANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF FOOD POISONING, THE FLU OR OTHER ILLNESSES, YOU MAY NOT THINK THAT CO POISONING COULD BE THE CAUSE.

## PLAY IT SAFE

IF YOU SUSPECT CO POISONING:

- CALL 911
  - GET FRESH AIR IMMEDIATELY
  - DO NOT RE-ENTER THE PREMISES UNTIL CLEARED BY EMERGENCY PERSONNEL
  - GO TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM AND TELL THE PHYSICIAN YOU SUSPECT CO POISONING
- INSTALL CO ALARMS OUTSIDE EACH SLEEPING ROOM AND ON EACH LEVEL OF THE HOUSE
  - TEST THE ALARMS AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH AND REPLACE ALARMS ACCORDING TO THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS
  - KEEP CO ALARMS FREE OF DUST AND DEBRIS
  - BE SURE THE ALARM IS PLUGGED SOLIDLY INTO AN OUTLET, OR IF IT IS BATTERY-OPERATED, THAT THE BATTERIES ARE FRESH.

## TAKE PRECAUTIONS

- ✓ DO HAVE YOUR FUEL-BURNING APPLIANCES CHECKED BY A TRAINED PROFESSIONAL
- ✓ DO READ AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS ON FUEL-BURNING APPLIANCES
- ✗ DON'T IDLE THE CAR IN THE GARAGE
- ✗ DON'T USE A GAS OVEN TO HEAT YOUR HOME
- ✗ DON'T EVER USE A CHARCOAL GRILL INDOORS -- EVEN IN THE FIREPLACE
- ✗ DON'T USE ANY GAS POWERED ENGINES IN ENCLOSED SPACES
- ✗ DON'T IGNORE SYMPTOMS

