

Monroe Township Bureau of Fire Prevention

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IMPORTANT CARBON MONOXIDE INFORMATION

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is known as the silent killer.

Recently, there have been multiple incidents where carbon monoxide alarms failed to detect carbon monoxide, possibly because the alarms were at their end of life usefulness.

Battery and hardwired backup combination Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors are good for **five** to **seven** years (based on manufacturer). Most newer units are sealed with lithium batteries that are good for **ten** years, with an end of life notification.

On a side note, the average life expectancy of a smoke detector is **ten** years unless otherwise noted.

If you can't remember replacing it, it's probably due. Check the date on the back of the detector. If no date is visible, then it is a good idea to replace.

If you have a hardwired system, replace outdated detectors with another hardwired unit. It is recommended that each level of the house have a CO detector in addition to a smoke detector (see website for locations).

For further information, contact us at the above locations.

Carbon Monoxide Safety



Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.

HOME HEATING EQUIPMENT



Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in. When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation. Never use your oven to heat your home.

FACTS

- ❗ A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.
- ❗ In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine calls per hour.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards