

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Have the heating system, including chimneys and vents inspected and serviced annually.
- Examine vents and chimneys regularly for improper connections, visible rust or stains.
- Notice problems that could indicate improper appliance operation: decreasing hot water supply, furnace unable to heat house or runs constantly, visible soot, unfamiliar or burning odor.

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

Carbon Monoxide detectors come in a variety of sizes and shapes. Make sure the one you purchase is UL listed. The CO detector should have an easy to read display so that you can observe the concentrations of CO if the alarm sounds. The detector should be either electric with a battery back-up (in the event of a power failure) or be a battery-only operated unit. CO detectors batteries and sensors should be replaced as per the manufacturer's instructions.

CO detectors should be mounted near sleeping areas or normally occupied spaces. They should **not** be mounted near bathrooms, near other damp locations, or near where household chemicals-cleaners are stored. CO detectors should also be mounted at about 3 to 4 feet from the floor.



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SHADY VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY INFORMATION

Carbon Monoxide kills nearly 300 people in the U.S. each year.

What you know could save your family's life.



WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an odorless, tasteless and colorless gas. It is produced in your home by burning any fuel. Therefore, any fuel-burning appliance in your home is a potential CO source.

Sources of Carbon Monoxide in your home

Appliances such as Natural and Propane burning stoves, water heaters and furnaces, other items such as wood burning fire places and stoves, kerosene heaters and pellet burning furnaces are all sources of CO. Your automobile in an attached garage can also be a source of CO contamination.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CARBON MONOXIDE

Symptoms of low level exposure to Carbon Monoxide are often flu like and may include one or more of the following: headache, nausea, dizziness, or weakness. Exposure to high concentrations of Carbon Monoxide may result in: irregular breathing, headache, nausea, fatigue, dizziness, confusion, hallucinations, cyanosis (blue extremities), loss of consciousness, convulsions and even

death. Remember, if you have any of these symptoms and if you feel better when you go outside your home and the symptoms reappear once your back inside, you may have CO poisoning.

CO SOURCES IN YOUR HOME

Potential sources of Carbon Monoxide in your home are:

1. Room space heater
2. Furnace
3. Range (stove)
4. Water heater
5. Fireplace
6. Auto running in attached garage
7. Gas clothes dryer
8. Kerosene portable heater

CLUES YOU CAN SEE

- Rusting or water streaking on a vent or chimney.
- Loose or missing furnace panel.
- Visible soot around wood burning appliances.
- Loose masonry on chimney.

- Moisture inside of windows.

CLUES YOU CANNOT SEE

- Internal appliance damage or malfunctioning components.
- Improper appliance burner adjustment.
- Hidden blockage or damage in chimneys.

WHAT YOU SHOULD NOT DO

- Never burn charcoal indoors or in a garage.
- Never service appliances without proper knowledge, skills and tools.
- Never use the gas range or oven for home heating.
- Never leave car running in an attached garage.
- Never operate un-vented gas-burning appliances in a closed room.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Make sure all appliances are installed according to manufacturer's instructions and local building codes. Most appliances should be installed by professionals.