PREVENTING CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

- Have your heating system, water heater, and any other gas, oil, or coal-burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector in your home. If battery-operated, check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall. If the detector sounds, leave your home immediately and call 911.
- Seek prompt medical attention if you are feeling dizzy, lightheaded, or nauseated and suspect carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Never use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove, or other gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement, or garage. When using a device outside, keep it away from windows.
- Don't run a car or truck inside a garage attached to your house, even if you leave the door open.
- Be sure to never burn anything in a stove or fireplace that isn't vented.
- Don't heat your house with a gas oven as CO fumes can build up in the kitchen.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT BOATING AND CARBON MONOXIDE DANGERS

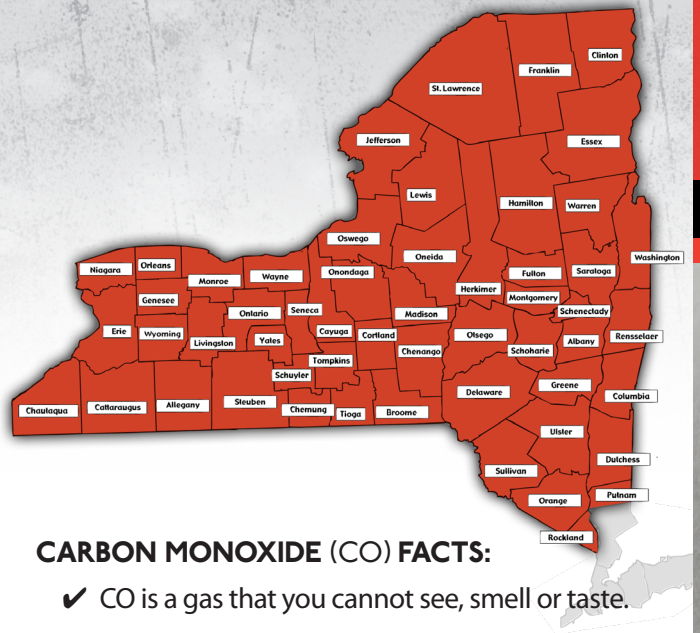
- Boats can release carbon monoxide (CO) from their back vents.
- Stay away from spots where engine exhaust is released when swimming or playing.
- Going slow or idling can lead to CO buildup in the cabin, cockpit, bridge, and aft deck.
- Install a CO detector on all boats.
- Never block exhaust outlets.
- When docking or anchoring, stay at least 20 feet away from boats running generators or engines.



UPSTATE NEW YORK POISON CENTER

SERVICE AREA

1-800-222-1222



CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) **FACTS:**

- ✔ CO is a gas that you cannot see, smell or taste.
- ✔ CO poisoning sends more than 100,000 people in the U.S. to an emergency department each year.
- ✔ CO can kill
- ✔ CO detectors are not smoke alarms. You need both in your home

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Carbon Monoxide

UPSTATE NEW YORK POISON CENTER

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DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE IN YOUR HOME? THEY CAN ALL PRODUCE DEADLY CARBON MONOXIDE.

SOURCES OF CO:

- boat
- car or truck
- charcoal fire
- clothes dryer
- small engine
- gas range
- gas or kerosene space heater
- water heater
- generator
- grill
- lantern
- fireplace
- furnace
- stove

HELPFUL TIPS:

- If you use a generator when the power goes out, don't use it INSIDE your home, porch, or garage.
- Keep your generator outside and place it at least 20 feet from the house.
- Be sure the chimney and flues are cleared to work properly.
- After a snowstorm, make sure vents for a dryer, furnace, stove, or fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- Exercise caution when clearing snow around your car. Before starting the engine, make sure both the tailpipe and undercarriage are completely free from snow. Crack open the windows to avoid the accumulation of carbon monoxide.
- Monthly, vacuum your detector to eliminate dust and dirt that could block/clog the sensor. Avoid cleaning detectors with chemicals or solvents.

WHERE TO PLACE CO DETECTOR:

- Install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in a central position outside every sleeping area, on each level of the residence, and in additional areas, as mandated by relevant laws, or codes.
- For optimal safety, interconnect all CO alarms within the home so that when one alarm activates, all alarms sound simultaneously.
- Adhere to the manufacturer's guidelines for proper placement and mounting height during installation. Pick a CO alarm with a certification label from a recognized testing laboratory.

WARNING SIGNS:

- A gas appliance with a yellow flame (it should burn blue).
- Soot build-up on or around your appliances.
- Rust stains on vents or chimneys.
- Increased moisture on windows.
- Lack of hot water.
- Furnace running longer and not heating well.

Call a certified repairman immediately if you see any of these warning signs.



WHAT TO DO IF ALARM SOUNDS:

- If the alarm sounds, move everyone outdoors or get fresh air immediately
- Call the Upstate New York Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222
- If anyone is unconscious or having seizures call 911

SIGNS OF CO POISONING:

Flu–like symptoms such as:

- headache
- dizziness
- weakness
- nausea or vomiting

CAN LEAD TO:

- seizures
- coma
- death

IF NOT FEELING WELL, ASK YOURSELF:

- Do your symptoms occur only in the house?
- Do they disappear or decrease when you leave home and reappear when you return?
- Is anyone else in your household complaining of similar symptoms? Did everyone's symptoms appear about the same time?
- Are you using any fuel-burning appliances in the home?
- Has anyone inspected your appliances lately?
- Are you certain they are working properly?

WHERE DOES CO COME FROM?

Small amounts of CO are produced when fuels such as gas, oil, kerosene, charcoal or wood are burned. Normally the gases are sent outside through a chimney or venting system. If there is a problem with the system, the smoke or exhaust can leak inside your house and carbon monoxide could build up to dangerous levels within minutes.

Visit our website for more information: **www.upstatepoison.org**

1–800–222–1222