Carbon Monoxide Gas Can Kill Quickly

Knowing the facts can save your life!

WHAT

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is a poisonous gas that we can't smell, see, or taste. A smoke alarm cannot detect it. This silent killer can kill in minutes.

HOW

The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. CO symptoms are often described as "flu-like." If you breathe in a lot of CO it can make you pass out or kill you.

WHO

- **Anyone** can be affected.
- From 2000-2019, the underlying cause of death for 275 New Jersey residents was CO poisoning*.
- In 2019 alone, 374 residents were treated in emergency rooms for non-fire related, accidental CO poisoning. Their age ranged from less than 5 years old to over 80 years old*.

WHY

Many household items including gas- and oil-burning furnaces, gas hot water heaters, portable generators, and charcoal grills produce this poisonous gas. The same is true with vehicles, snow blowers, or any gasoline-powered engine left idling in a garage especially one attached to a home or business.

*Additional data on CO poisonings from NJSHAD:
- Deaths: http://bit.ly/2TLL0tx
- Emergency Department Visits: http://bit.ly/2O2EI9e
- Hospitalizations: https://bit.ly/3ndNyit

Be safe. Protect your family. Take these basic precautions†:

CO Detectors

- Install battery-operated or battery back-up CO detectors near every sleeping area in your home
- Check CO detectors regularly to be sure they are working properly.

> A survey showed an estimated 20% of residents in some NJ counties reported not having a CO detector in their home: https://bit.ly/3BWMjs1

Portable Generators

- Never use a generator inside your home, carport, or garage, even if doors and windows are open.
- Only use generators outside, more than 20 feet away from your home, doors, and windows.

Oil and Gas Furnaces and Hot Water Heaters

- Have your heating and hot water appliances inspected at least once a year

†For additional information:
EPA: Protect Your Family and Yourself from CO Poisoning

NJ Health
New Jersey Department of Health