



WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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The Safety “PINS” Carbon Monoxide (CO)

Carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless gas. It is slightly lighter than air. It's produced from the incomplete combustion of any fossil fuels such as gasoline, propane, oil, natural gas, wood, etc. It is generated from the operation of vehicles, stoves, grills, fireplaces, portable generators, furnaces, etc. It can build up in enclosed areas, causing carbon monoxide poisoning in those that breathe it in.

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING



Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Low to moderate poisoning can cause headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness.

High level poisoning can lead to mental confusion, vomiting, loss of muscular coordination, loss of consciousness, and eventually death.

Prevention/Protection

Install carbon monoxide detectors on every level of the house. If battery operated, be sure to check and replace the batteries per the manufacturer recommendations. Replace the detector as recommended by the manufacturer. Properly maintain and clean all your heating systems. Never run a portable generator inside or even near an entry way into your house. Never run a vehicle in a garage even with the door open.

Note: [Combination smoke/carbon monoxide detectors are readily available.](#)

If Your Alarm Goes Off

Immediately **evacuate** the building, ensuring everyone gets outside to your meeting place/accountability area. **Call 9-1-1** while making sure everyone is outside and accounted for. Check for and report any illness during the 911 call. **DO NOT RE-ENTER** the building under any circumstances until an emergency responder says that it's safe to do so.

