



Is Your Home "CO" Safe?



About Carbon Monoxide (CO)

- Carbon monoxide is a deadly gas that can result from the malfunction or improper ventilation of furnaces, water heaters, fireplaces, grills, generators and other devices.
- CO is odorless, colorless and tasteless — and it kills about 500 people every year.
- CO is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the U.S.
- CO poisoning accounts for up to 700 avoidable emergency room visits and hospitalizations, and perhaps thousands of avoidable illnesses each year.

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CO and Kids

- Young children and pregnant women are among those most susceptible to CO and often experience symptoms much earlier than a healthy adult.
- More than 135 kids died of unintentional CO poisoning in the U.S. between 1999-2004.
- Four Californians have already died of CO poisoning in 2011, including two young children.

CO and Your Health

- Initial symptoms of CO poisoning often mimic the flu — including headaches, dizziness, and nausea — and are often misdiagnosed.
- People exposed to CO often have permanent effects from the poisoning, including memory loss and lack of control over motor skills. And they're three times more likely to experience coronary artery disease.

Keep Your Family Safe

- Having a working CO alarm is the **ONLY** safe way to detect this “silent killer” — and you can protect your family for as little as \$20.
- There is a proven relationship between CO alarm laws and lower death rates due to CO poisonings.
- California law mandates that all existing homes with attached garages, fireplaces or any gas appliances, such as ovens or dryers, be equipped with carbon monoxide detectors by July 1, 2011.
- Homeowners can purchase carbon monoxide detectors in most hardware or home improvement retail stores. California retailers only stock devices that have been approved by the state's fire marshal.
- Consumers should follow the manufacturers' instructions for whatever device they purchase, but at a minimum, there should be one alarm outside of each bedroom and one on each level of the home.
- Hotel, motel and apartment owners have until Jan. 1, 2013 to bring their buildings into compliance.
- The California Building Code includes a similar requirement that all new homes built after Jan. 1, 2011 must have detectors installed.

