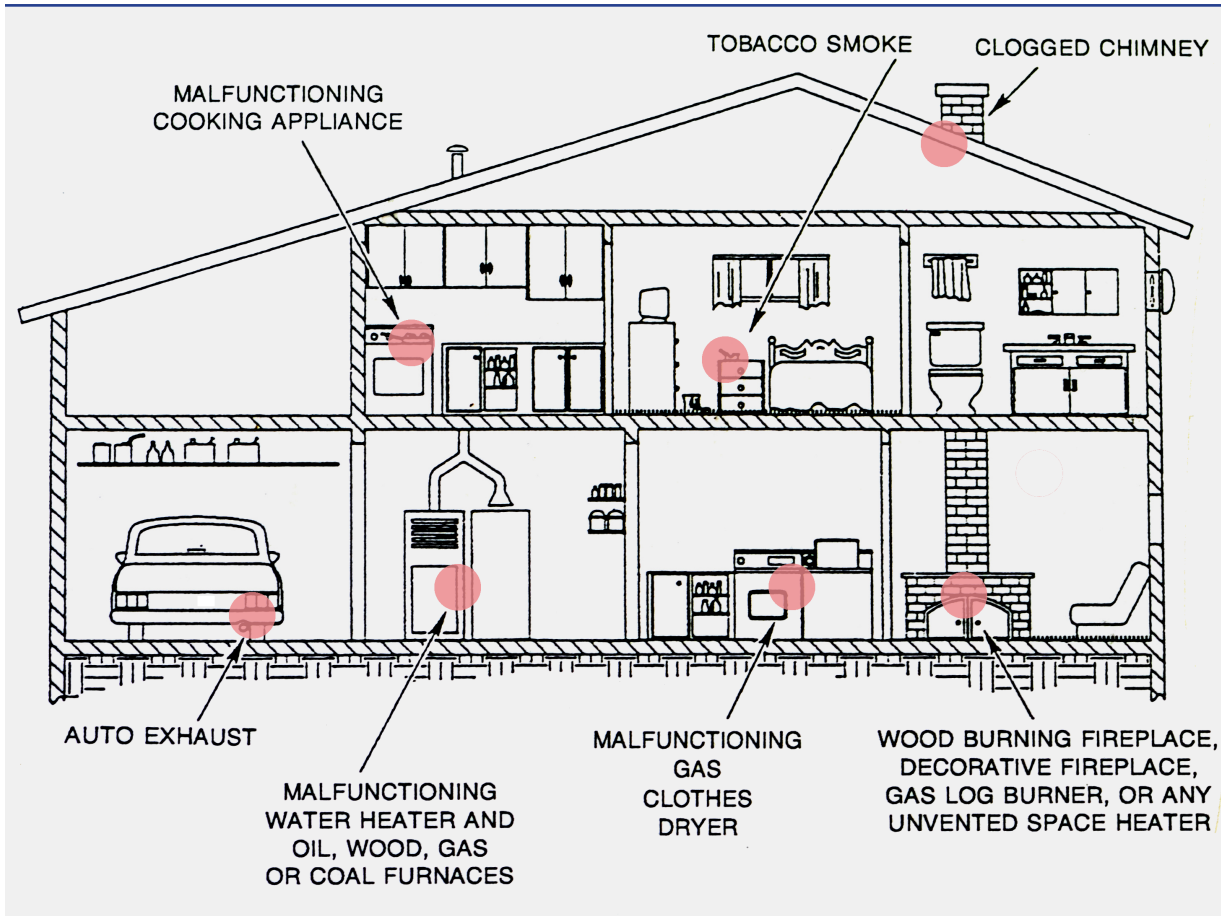
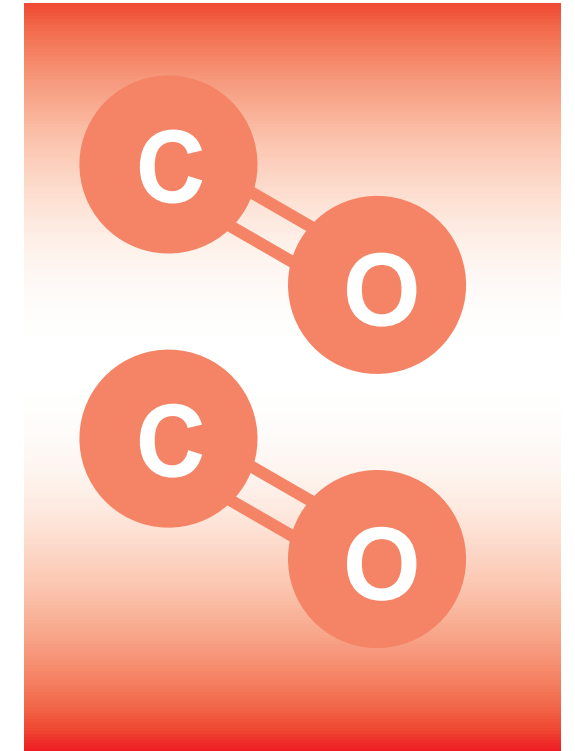


What are some of the common sources of carbon monoxide?



What you should know to protect your family from

Carbon Monoxide



You should remember there are many more possible sources:

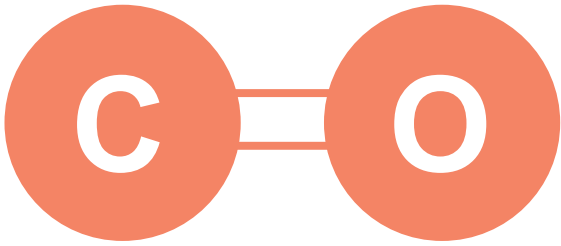
- ✓ Appliances in cabins or campers
- ✓ Barbecue grills
- ✓ Lack of adequate ventilation
- ✓ Pool/spa heaters
- ✓ Ceiling-mounted heating unit
- ✓ Gasoline-powered tools

For more information, call the

Allegheny County Health Department
Housing and Community Environment
Program

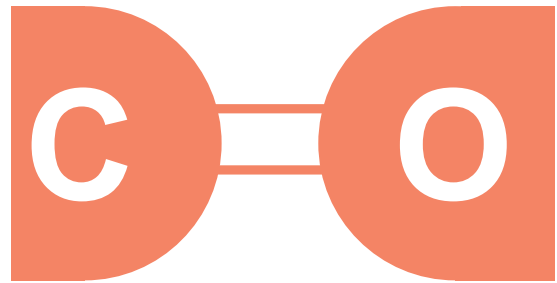
3190 Sassafra Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15201
412-350-4046, 412-687-2243
FAX: 412-350-2792





Medical experts agree...

Carbon monoxide (CO) is dangerous! Hundreds die each year from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning. Here's some information to help protect you and your family...



What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, tasteless and colorless gas that could be created whenever a fuel (such as wood, gasoline, coal, natural gas, kerosene, etc.) is burning. However, sometimes other odors and smells are present with carbon monoxide.

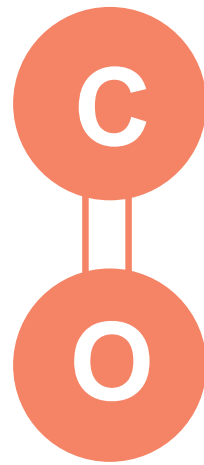
You may be exposed to carbon monoxide when:

- ✓ You leave your car, truck or van engine running
- ✓ Your home contains an incorrectly vented or malfunctioning hot water heater, furnace, space heater, fireplace or kitchen cooking stove
- ✓ You burn charcoal, alcohol or gasoline in an enclosed tent, camper or room
- ✓ You smoke a cigar, cigarette or pipe

How does carbon monoxide harm you?

Quite simply, carbon monoxide prevents oxygen from being used by your body. Carbon monoxide is poisonous and can harm your central nervous system and even your heart.

Who is at risk?



Everyone is at risk of being poisoned by carbon monoxide. However, individuals with existing health problems such as heart and lung diseases and the elderly are especially vulnerable. Infants, children and pregnant women are also at high risk.

What are the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning mimics many common illnesses such as the flu and food poisoning.

Some of the common symptoms associated with carbon monoxide poisoning are,

- ✓ Headaches
- ✓ Dizziness
- ✓ Weakness
- ✓ Nausea
- ✓ Rapid heartbeat
- ✓ Seizures
- ✓ Cardiac Arrest
- ✓ Loss of hearing
- ✓ Blurry vision
- ✓ Vomiting
- ✓ Disorientation
- ✓ Loss of consciousness
- ✓ Coma
- ✓ Respiratory failure

This list is not meant to serve as a diagnosis of carbon monoxide poisoning, but it is meant to provide information about carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms. Always check with your doctor.

What can I do to protect myself and my family?

You should have your furnace and fireplace cleaned and inspected before each heating season. Your gas hot water heater should also be inspected. Use non-electrical space heaters only in well-ventilated areas. Don't start or leave running cars, trucks or other vehicles in an enclosed area.

Carbon monoxide home alarms

Carbon monoxide detectors for use in your home are recommended to help alert you to increased CO levels.

BUT THEY ARE NOT FOOLPROOF!

Actuation of your CO Alarm indicates the presence of carbon monoxide (CO) which can kill you. In other words, when your alarm sounds, you must not ignore it!

IF YOUR ALARM SIGNAL SOUNDS:

1. Call 911.
2. Immediately move to fresh air—outdoors or by an open door or window. Do a head count to check that all persons are accounted for. Do not re-enter the premises, or move away from the open door or window until the emergency services responder has arrived, the premises has been aired out, and your CO Alarm remains in its normal condition.
3. Call a qualified appliance technician to investigate for sources of CO from fuel-burning equipment and appliances, and inspect for proper operation of this equipment. If problems are identified during this inspection, have the equipment serviced immediately. Note any combustion equipment not inspected by the technician, and consult the manufacturers' instructions, or contact the manufacturer directly, for more information about CO safety and this equipment. Make sure that motor vehicles are not, and have not, been operating in an attached garage or adjacent to the residence.