

# CARBON MONOXIDE & FIRE SAFETY

## How to Stay Safe

Here are some easy tips to protect yourself and your family from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and house fires:

1. **Install CO and smoke detectors.** Be sure to install both a CO and smoke detector where you sleep and in other main areas in your home. Replace batteries in battery-operated devices twice a year, like when you change the clocks in spring and fall.
2. **Create a fire escape plan.** Every second counts! Escape plans help you get out of your home quickly. Develop and practice your home fire escape plan twice each year with your entire family.
3. **Know where your fire extinguishers are** and check to make sure they haven't expired and are working properly.
4. **Keep lighters and matches out of reach of children** and teach kids not to play with them.
5. **Keep things ventilated.** Make sure gas appliances have good airflow. Vent pipes should tilt upwards so CO can escape.
6. **Schedule regular maintenance** for fuel burning appliances. Have a pro look at your heating system and other fuel-burning appliances once a year to make sure they're safe.
7. **Inspect your chimney.** Clean your chimney every year to prevent CO or other build up from getting trapped inside.
8. **Don't use gas stoves or ovens to heat your home.** They can make CO build up and are a fire risk.
9. **If you use a generator, keep it outside.** Keep generators at least 20 feet away from windows and doors and always use a CO detector.



### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CO:

You cannot see, smell or hear carbon monoxide. That's why it's called the silent killer. Carbon monoxide can come from more than just your running vehicle. Read more to learn what you can do to keep you and your family safe!



**We care about your safety!** By following these simple tips, we can all stay safe and warm this winter.

For more info on carbon monoxide poisoning, visit the CDC's website:



More information on how to protect yourself and the ones you love from fire risks including developing a fire escape plan, visit ready.gov's website:

Click or scan



It is our goal, as your local Health Department to provide useful information to prevent, promote and protect you and your family's health and wellness.



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