

CARBON MONOXIDE & FIRE SAFETY

NOVEMBER
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QUICK TIPS
for parents
of school-age kids

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. **Keep lighters and matches out of reach of children** and teach kids not to play with them.
3. **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.
4. **Know where your fire extinguishers are** and check to make sure they haven't expired and are working properly.
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 professional 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!



[Learn more at usfa.fema.gov](https://www.usfa.fema.gov)

Make your own home fire escape plan and practice it with your family regularly!
Download the resource here.



Find fun resources to share with your kids on the National Fire Prevention Association's website.



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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