



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless gas that can be fatal. The symptoms of CO poisoning mimic those of the flu, including headache, fatigue, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, or loss of consciousness. If several members of a household experience these symptoms when they are home, but feel better when they are away from the home, there may be a CO problem.

Every home in which a portable generator is operating, or that burns oil, natural gas, wood or coal, should have a carbon monoxide detector that is in good, working order. If the alarm goes off, get out of the house immediately. Call 911 or the town fire department from a cell phone or neighbor's house.

The Department of Public Health offers safety tips to prevent CO poisoning when using gasoline generators and other gasoline-powered equipment.

Safety Tips to Prevent CO Poisoning

- Never use portable generators, pressure washer engines, or other gasoline-powered equipment (including tools) inside your home, garage, carport, basement or other enclosed spaces.
- Place gasoline-powered equipment outside and away from doors, windows or air intake vents.
- Install a CO detector on each floor of your residence near sleeping areas. A UL certified plug-in detector with battery-backup and a digital readout is recommended. Test alarms monthly. Change the battery at least twice a year. Replace alarms every 5 years because the sensors degrade over time.
- Use grilling apparatus such as charcoal or gas grills outdoors only.
****Opening windows and doors, and operating fans is not sufficient to prevent buildup of CO in a home.**
- Get out of the house and seek medical help immediately if you or a family member has symptoms of CO poisoning. Symptoms include headache, fatigue, dizziness, nausea or vomiting, and loss of consciousness.
- Call **911** from a cell phone or neighbor's home and the Connecticut Poison Control Center at the University of Connecticut Health Center (**1-800-222-1222**).

For more information on carbon monoxide poisoning and prevention:

- DPH Environmental & Occupational Health Assessment Program
www.ct.gov/dph
860-509-7742
- Consumer Product Safety Commission
www.cpsc.gov

For more information on carbon monoxide detectors:

- Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.
www.ul.com