



Tipp City Fire Department

520 W. Main Street • Tipp City • Ohio • 45371

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, toxic gas. Incomplete combustion of fossil fuels creates carbon monoxide. The great danger of CO is its attraction to hemoglobin in the bloodstream. CO is breathed in through the lungs and bonds with hemoglobin in your blood, displacing the oxygen that cells need to function. When CO is present in the air, it rapidly accumulates in the blood. It eventually displaces enough oxygen in your system to suffocate you from inside out, resulting in brain damage or death.

Sources of Carbon Monoxide:

- Automobile exhaust.
- Clogged or blocked chimney's or rusted flues or vent pipes.
- Improperly installed fireplaces and appliances.
- Space heaters.
- Charcoal grills

Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:

Symptoms are much like the flu and other illnesses thus being called the "Great Imitator"

- Headaches
- Fatigue
- dizziness
- confusion
- nausea & vomiting

At higher levels of CO can cause:

- Unconsciousness
- death

Buying a CO Detector:

- Select detector(s) listed by a qualified, independent laboratory.
- Follow manufacturer's recommendation for placement in your home.
- Test CO detectors at least once a month, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Replace CO detectors according to the manufacturers, usually about every two years.
- Battery powered CO detectors may have unique battery packs designed to last approximately two years, compared to batteries used in smoke detectors, which require yearly replacement.

If your alarm sounds:

- Open windows.
- Make everyone go outside.
- Seek medical attention.
- Call the fire department (911), especially if an emergency situation exists or someone is overcome by CO.
- Identify and correct the problem.