



City of Madison Fire Department

Community Education



Carbon Monoxide Fact Sheet

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that is produced by the incomplete burning of solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels. Appliances fueled by gas, oil, kerosene, or wood may produce CO.

Common CO sources in your home:

- ✓ Furnaces
- ✓ Stoves and ovens
- ✓ Water heaters
- ✓ Dryers
- ✓ Room/Space heaters
- ✓ Fireplaces and wood stoves
- ✓ Charcoal grills
- ✓ Automobiles

Symptoms* of CO poisoning:

- ✓ Headache
- ✓ Nausea
- ✓ Fatigue
- ✓ Dizziness
- ✓ Shortness of breath
- ✓ Sleepiness
- ✓ Confusion

*Symptoms are sometimes mistaken as the flu.

**If a CO detector alarm sounds:
Do not panic! First, ask yourself...**

“Do I feel sick?”

“Yes”

Immediately evacuate to a safe location and call 911.

The best initial treatment for CO exposure is fresh air followed by treatment from a physician.

“No”

The likelihood of serious exposure is greatly reduced.

- ✓ Turn off gas appliances
- ✓ Open doors and windows
- ✓ Contact your local gas utility company or a qualified heating and ventilating service.

**MG&E: (608) 252-1111
Alliant Energy: 800-255-4268**