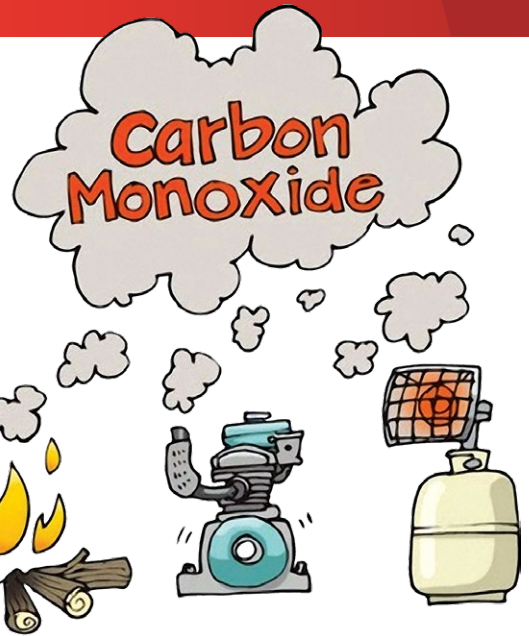


# Carbon Monoxide Alarm Facts



[www.manitoba.ca/firecomm](http://www.manitoba.ca/firecomm)



## Carbon Monoxide Alarm Facts



Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, tasteless and highly toxic gas created by the incomplete combustion of fuels such as:

- natural gas
- wood
- kerosene
- propane
- gasoline
- coal
- charcoal
- methane

This incomplete combustion can occur in any device that depends on burning for energy or heat such as:

- furnaces
- room heaters
- fireplaces
- hot water heaters
- stoves or grills
- any gas-powered vehicle or engine

Automobiles left running in attached garages, gas barbecues operated inside the home, grills or kerosene heaters that are not properly vented, or chimneys or vents that are dirty or plugged may create unsafe levels of carbon monoxide.

You cannot detect carbon monoxide on your own which is why it is called the **silent killer**.

Over the winter months, many people spend time in fishing shacks and set up fuel-burning heaters and grills inside their shacks to stay warm and for cooking. **NEVER** use a grill inside and **NEVER** use a fuel-burning heater unless well-vented.

Exposure to carbon monoxide causes flu-like symptoms such as:

- headaches, nausea and dizziness
- burning eyes
- drowsiness
- confusion
- impaired judgment
- loss of manual dexterity
- even loss of consciousness

In severe cases, carbon monoxide poisoning can cause death in people and pets. The elderly, children, and people with heart or respiratory conditions may be particularly sensitive to carbon monoxide.

## What can you do to make sure you and your family stay safe wherever you are?

1. Ensure you have a CO alarm on every level of your home and outside of each separate sleeping area.
2. Test all of your CO alarms monthly to make sure they are working properly.
3. Have your heating system inspected by a qualified professional and serviced every year to ensure it is working properly.

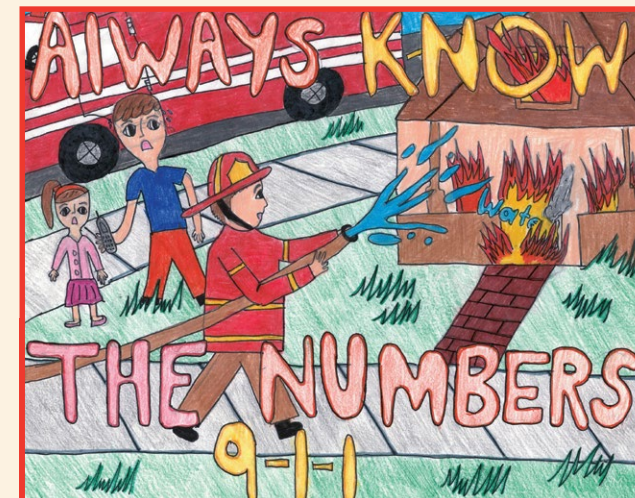


4. Make sure vents for your dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow and other debris.
5. Never run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor in your garage, even if the doors are open.
6. Replace your CO alarm every 10 years, or when you hear the "end-of-life" signal sound, which is one "BEEP" every one minute.
7. When travelling, staying away from home or in your fishing shack, or even on your boat, bring a travel CO alarm with you.
8. CO alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms and vice versa. Know the difference between the sound of a smoke alarm and the sound of a CO alarm.



## What can you do if your carbon monoxide (CO) alarm sounds?

1. Make sure you move to a fresh air location outdoors, leave your door open and ensure that everyone is accounted for.
2. Call 9-1-1 or your local fire department from outside your home and remain there until emergency personnel has advised that it is safe to reenter the home.



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