

January 22, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

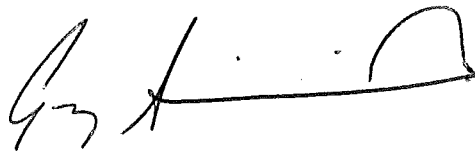
As result of the extreme cold temperatures that have occurred in the last several weeks in upstate New York and the possibility of its return, awareness is needed on the hazards of carbon monoxide poisoning. Supplemental heating sources and electric generators used in homes and work places can cause dangerous carbon monoxide exposures if precautions are not followed.

For example, a construction worker was recently transported by ambulance to the Upstate Emergency Department in Syracuse after collapsing on a home renovation project that used a gas powered generator and portable heating equipment indoors. Carbon monoxide poisoning was responsible for this near fatal event.

Attached please find information on preventing carbon monoxide poisoning. Please distribute as you deem appropriate.

Should you have any questions please contact the Occupational Health Clinical Center at 315-432-8899.

Sincerely,



Greg Siwinski MS, CIH
Certified Industrial Hygienist

CARBON MONOXIDE

• Know the Hazards •

- 1 Never run generators in indoor spaces such as garages, basements, porches, crawlspaces, or sheds, or in partly-enclosed spaces such as carports or breezeways. Generators should only be operated outside, far away from and downwind of buildings.



- 2 Never use a gas range or oven for warmth. Using a gas range or oven for warmth can cause a buildup of toxic carbon monoxide (CO) inside your home, cabin, or camper.



- 3 Never use a charcoal grill or a barbecue grill in your home or garage. Using a grill indoors will cause a buildup of toxic CO.



- 4 Never start up or run any gasoline-powered engines (mowers, weed trimmers, snow blowers, chain saws, generators or other small motors) in enclosed spaces.



- 5 Never use a stove or fireplace unless it is properly installed and vented. Annually, have it inspected and have oil and gas heat and hot water systems serviced.



- 6 Never run your car or truck or motorcycle inside a garage that is attached to a house or in a detached garage with the garage door shut; open the door to remove CO and other toxic gases in the exhaust.



CARBON MONOXIDE

What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas that can kill you in minutes. It is invisible, tasteless, odorless, and non-irritating. It is produced from burning fuels such as wood, oil, natural gas, propane, gasoline, and kerosene.

Symptoms of CO poisoning

CO is known as the “silent killer.” It can prevent the body from getting oxygen. Symptoms can be flu-like: • nausea • headache • dizziness • shortness of breath • sleepiness • weakness
In large amounts, CO can cause loss of consciousness, brain damage, or death.

Do you suspect CO poisoning?

- **OPEN** all windows and doors.
- **GET OUT** of the building and into the fresh air.
- **CALL** the fire department from outside the building.
- **CALL** the gas company from outside the building.
- **CALL 911** if you or someone else is experiencing symptoms, or take the ill person to the emergency room. Tell the physician you suspect CO poisoning.



Fire Department _____
Gas Company _____
Health Care Provider _____

CO Detectors

- Install a CO detector which is battery-powered or has a battery back-up, and is certified by Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Carefully follow manufacturers’ installation, use, maintenance, and replacement instructions.
- Check the CO detector batteries twice a year.
- If the alarm sounds, get out of the building.
- Don’t let having a CO detector lull you into a false sense of security. **PREVENTING** the problem is better than relying on an alarm.



* **BATTERIES LAST REPLACED**