



CALIFORNIA AND CARBON MONOXIDE FACTS

IS YOUR ALARM BEEPING?

In July 2011, California Senate Bill 183 went into effect. Known as the "Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act," the law requires California residents to install CO alarms in their homes. If you installed a CO alarm following the law going into effect in 2011, it may be time to install new CO alarms.

Once installed, it's important to remember that CO alarms don't last forever. Because the sensors in CO alarms have a limited lifespan, alarms purchased across the state of California in 2011 may start sounding an end-of-life warning beep at some point this year. When your CO alarm indicates the need for replacement, it's imperative you install a new alarm immediately.

WHAT IS THAT BEEP? A REPLACEMENT REMINDER.

When your CO alarm nears its expiration, the end-of-life indicator will sound. It's important to remember that changing the alarm battery will not stop the end-of-life beeping. Knowing how to identify this beep is essential to keeping your home safe.

WHY THE BEEP? YOUR SAFETY.

In 2009, Underwriters Laboratories (UL) began requiring alarms to come equipped with an end-of-life feature that indicates when a CO alarm needs to be replaced. CO alarms do not detect the presence of carbon monoxide upon entering end-of-life mode.

CARBON MONOXIDE FAQS

WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?

- > CO is a colorless, odorless and tasteless poisonous gas that can be fatal when inhaled
- > CO is often referred to as the "invisible killer"
- > CO inhibits the blood's capacity to carry oxygen
- > CO is produced when fuels such as gasoline, propane, natural gas, oil or wood is burned

WHERE DOES CARBON MONOXIDE COME FROM?

- > Any fuel-burning appliance that is malfunctioning or improperly installed
- > Furnaces, water heaters, space heaters, clothes dryers, stoves, fireplaces and portable generator
- Grills used in an enclosed space
- > Vehicles running in an attached garage
- Blocked chimney or flue
- Cracked or loose furnace exchanger
- Back-drafting and changes in air pressure



WHAT ARE CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING SYMPTOMS?

Initial symptoms are similar to the flu without a fever and can include dizziness, severe headaches, nausea, sleepiness, fatigue and disorientation.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF CARBON MONOXIDE EXPOSURE?

- > Mild Exposure: A slight headache, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, flu-like symptoms
- > Medium Exposure: A severe headache, drowsiness, confusion, fast heart rate
- > Extreme Exposure: Convulsions, unconsciousness, brain damage, heart and lung failure followed by death

ARE THERE ANY STEPS I CAN TAKE TO PREVENT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING?

- > The only safe way to detect CO in your home is with a working CO alarm
- **>** Equip your home with CO alarms on every level and outside each sleeping area
- > Have your heating system, vents, chimney and flue inspected annually by a qualified technician
- > Install and operate appliances according to the manufacturer's instructions
- > Only purchase appliances that have been approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory
- > Never use a gas range/stove to heat the home
- > Never leave a vehicle idling in a closed garage
- > Never use a grill or portable generator in close proximity to your home

DO I NEED A CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM? WHERE SHOULD IT BE INSTALLED?

- > SB 183 requires all single-family homes with attached garage or a fossil fuel source to install carbon monoxide alarms within the home
- > An alarm should be installed on every level of the home and outside each sleeping areas

SHOULD MY CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM HAVE A DIGITAL DISPLAY? WHAT DOES THE PEAK LEVEL FUNCTION DO?

A digital display allows you to see if CO is present and respond before it becomes a dangerous situation. Peak Level Memory stores the highest recorded reading prior to being reset. This feature enables you to know if there was a reading while you were away from home, and also can help emergency responders determine the best treatment.

WHO SHOULD I CALL IF MY CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM GOES OFF?

Get to fresh air and call 911. If you are unable to leave the home, open the doors and windows, and turn off all possible sources of CO while you are waiting for assistance to arrive. Under no circumstance should an alarm be ignored.

