



Hazard #5

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning



Carbon monoxide (sometimes referred to as CO) is a colorless, odorless gas produced by burning material containing carbon. Carbon monoxide poisoning can cause brain damage and death. You can't see it, smell it, or taste it; but carbon monoxide can kill you. Carbon monoxide is produced by common household appliances and improper ventilation of the following appliances may lead to carbon monoxide poisoning:



- Gas water heaters
- Kerosene space heaters
- Charcoal grills
- Propane heaters and stoves
- Gasoline and diesel powered generators



If you have any of the signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, go to a hospital emergency department, particularly if several people in the household are affected.

Because signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are not specific, a blood test to look for the poisoning is the best way to make the diagnosis.

The treatment for carbon monoxide poisoning is high-dose oxygen, usually using a facemask attached to an oxygen reserve tank.

Carbon monoxide levels in the blood may be periodically checked until they are low enough to safely send you home.

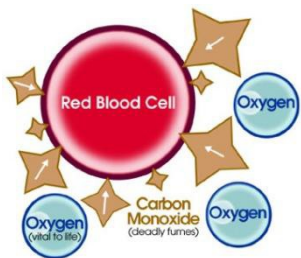
In severe poisoning, if available, a hyperbaric pressure chamber may be used to give higher doses of oxygen.

It is important to find the source of the carbon monoxide. Your local fire department or Public Service Company will help find the source of carbon monoxide and make sure the building is safe for your return.

Early symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning such as **headaches, nausea, and fatigue, are often mistaken for the flu because the deadly gas goes undetected in a home.** Prolonged exposure can lead to brain damage and even death.

Other symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning include:

- Shortness of breath
- Impaired judgment
- Chest pain
- Confusion
- Depression
- Hallucinations
- Agitation
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Drowsiness
- Visual changes
- Fainting
- Seizure
- Memory Loss
- Walking problems



Carbon Monoxide Alarms are currently installed at the following sites due to the presence of "Natural Gas:" **Wisely, Pembroke, Main Street, College Square** and an "Oil Burning Stove" at **Houck**

