



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Reduce your Risk of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Over the Winter

Eau Claire, WI – December 10th, 2017. As winter arrives and temperatures continue to fall, we want to remind people to take action to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide is often called the “invisible killer” as it enters the body, undetected, when you breathe. It can’t be seen. It can’t be smelled. It can’t be heard. Therefore, knowing the symptoms of CO poisoning is important. Symptoms may include headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness, and confusion. Do not ignore symptoms, especially if more than one person is feeling them. If you think you may have carbon monoxide poisoning, get outside to fresh air immediately! Then contact your local fire department or Communications Center at 911 for immediate help.

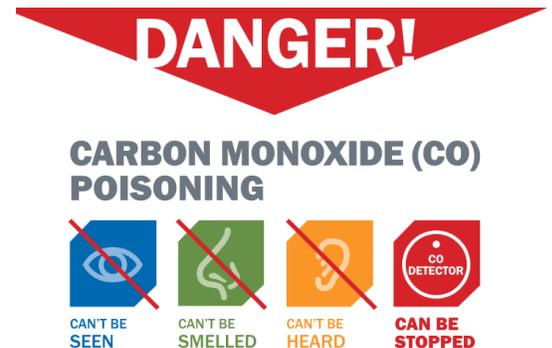
Now is the time of year we start seeing more carbon monoxide poisonings. On average, 500 people visit the emergency room in Wisconsin each year because of carbon monoxide poisoning. These trips to the ER can be prevented. Now is the time for you to make sure your heating sources and carbon monoxide detectors are in good working order.

Below are tips on how you can prevent carbon monoxide poisoning in your home.

- **Make sure you have working carbon monoxide detectors.** All Wisconsin homes and duplexes are required to have detectors on every level, including the basement, but not the attic or storage areas. Detectors can be purchased at most hardware stores for \$20-50. Daylight Savings Time is a good time each year to replace the batteries in your detector and push the “Test” button to be sure it’s working properly. Replace your detector every five years.
- **Never run a gasoline or propane heater or a grill (gas or charcoal) inside your home or in an unventilated garage.** Any heating system that burns fuel creates carbon monoxide. Use a battery-powered carbon monoxide detector where you have fuel burning devices but no electric outlets, such as in tents, cabins, RVs, and boats with enclosed cabins.
- **Never run a car in an enclosed space.** If a vehicle is running, you must open a door to the outside.

If you think you may have a carbon monoxide problem in your home, you may contact the Eau Claire City-County Health Department at 715-839-4718. The Health Department can test your home for the presence of carbon monoxide. To find out more information about carbon monoxide poisoning, visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/co/>.



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