



Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week

Carbon Monoxide Safety Checklist:

Carbon monoxide (CO) is colourless, odourless and tasteless and is produced when fuels such as propane, coal, natural gas, wood, gasoline, and heating oil are burned. If at combustion level these fuels are not properly ventilated, they become dangerous and can cause illness or death. There are no obvious signs of carbon monoxide exposure, which is why without a working CO alarm it is hard to detect a leak. Taking these simple steps at home can also help prevent and detect carbon monoxide. Review this simple checklist regularly to keep you safe from CO exposure:

Prevent Carbon Monoxide in your Home

- Get your fuel-burning appliances (i.e. furnace, hot water heater, fireplace, natural gas range, etc.) checked by a qualified technician regularly according to manufacturers' specifications.
- Check and replace your furnace filter at least every three months.
- Clear your indoor and outdoor vents and chimneys of debris, snow and ice (if necessary).
- Ensure the area around fuel-burning appliances is clutter free.
- Check the flame of all natural gas appliances regularly (it should be blue – a yellow burner flame can be a sign of carbon monoxide).
- Ensure there is adequate air supply (nearby window opened) when using a wood-burning fireplace.
- Do not idle your vehicle in your garage, even with the overhead door open.
- During a power outage, never use portable fuel-burning equipment (i.e. generators, patio heaters, barbecues, etc.) inside your home or garage as a temporary heat source.

Detect Carbon Monoxide in your Home

- Install and maintain CO alarm(s) according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Record the expiry date on your CO alarm(s) with a marker.
- Test your CO alarm(s) monthly.
- Replace the CO alarm(s) battery annually, if applicable.
- Vacuum your CO alarm(s) monthly.

In Case of a Leak...

- Ensure that all people and pets leave the home immediately.
- Call 911 or your local fire department, fuel supplier, a licensed heating contractor, or your gas company for an inspection.
- If anyone in the house feels ill, get immediate medical attention – symptoms may include flu-like symptoms without the fever, impaired motor functions, chest pain, tiredness or dizziness, and nausea.