



## Carbon Monoxide

### **Facts about Carbon Monoxide**

- Carbon Monoxide (CO) is odorless, and colorless.
- Carbon Monoxide is a deadly gas.
- CO poisoning can cause headaches, dizziness, nausea, fatigue, confusion and irritability.
- Senior citizens, children, infants and fetuses are more susceptible to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Prolonged carbon monoxide exposure can result in death.

The Wainwright Fire Rescue Department recommend installing at least one carbon monoxide detector on each floor of your residence. Install detectors close to sleeping areas. Ensure that the detector you purchase is tested and certified by a testing laboratory.



### **Where does Carbon Monoxide Originate?**

Carbon Monoxide is a by-product of combustion from fossil fuel. In your residence this could be from your natural gas furnace, space heaters, hot water heater, fireplace, wood burning stove or even ovens and stoves.

### **What are some common problems that result in carbon monoxide production in a home?**

The heat exchanger in you furnace may crack over time and result in carbon monoxide production.

A chimney from you furnace, wood stove or fireplace may become blocked not allowing the products of combustion the opportunity to vent through the chimney, instead accumulation will begin to occur in the residence.

## **What can I do to prevent carbon monoxide from becoming a problem in my home?**

Try to have your furnace inspected and serviced by a qualified plumber or technician at least once a year.



Change furnace filters regularly.

Have your wood stove or fireplace inspected and cleaned at least once a year. If you use either wood-burning device regularly, have it cleaned twice a year.

Have all chimneys in your home inspected annually by someone trained and certified.

Do not leave vehicles running in attached garages or around window areas.

If you have a gas-powered dryer, clean your lint trap and vent hose on a regular basis.

## **Prevention is your best defense to combat carbon monoxide poisoning**

### **What to do if your Carbon Monoxide Detectors goes into Alarm**



- Ensure it is in fact your CO detector and not your smoke detector.
- Have everyone in the building leave to an outside area.
- Call the Fire Department and Gas Department officials.
- Seek medical attention immediately if anyone exhibits the previously mentioned symptoms.

### **If no one in the residence exhibits any carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms.**

- Open all windows and doors.
- Turn off all heating equipment
- Turn off all cooking equipment.
- Call a qualified Plumber or Technician to inspect all equipment that may be responsible for the CO alarm.

Contact the Wainwright Fire Rescue Department for further information about Carbon Monoxide or any Fire Safety questions.