



STRATHMORE FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) – WHAT IS IT

- Poisonous gas that is odorless, colorless, tasteless and non-irritating.
- It crowds out life-sustaining oxygen from red blood cells and prevents the body from absorbing oxygen.

CARBON MONOXIDE – WARNING SIGNS

- Exposure to CO can cause symptoms such as dizziness, headache, nausea, and fatigue, burning eyes, vomiting or loss of muscle control.
- If you experience any of these symptoms or your CO alarm goes off, leave your home immediately and call 911 from a safe location.

PLACEMENT OF CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

- On every level of your home. In order to ensure that your home has maximum protection, it's important to have a CO detector on every floor.
- Five feet from the ground. Carbon monoxide detectors can get the best reading of your home's air when they are placed five feet from the ground.
- Near every sleeping area. If your CO levels get too high during the nighttime, it's important that detectors can be heard by everyone sleeping in your home. Place your detectors close enough to every sleeping area so that they can awaken everyone in the case of an emergency.
- Near attached garages. Cars produce carbon monoxide any time they are running. If you have an attached garage, those gasses can quickly spread to the rest of your house. A CO detector near your attached garage will warn you if that becomes a problem.
- Where the manufacturer recommends. Every model of carbon monoxide detector is tested according to manufacturer specifications. It's important to take those specifications into account when you're deciding where to place your detectors.

TYPES OF CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

Most CO Alarms work on the same principle and come as either 12 volt battery or 120 volt household or both.

TESTING

- Test at least once a month by pushing “test” button, replace if it fails to respond.
- Learn and know the difference between the “alarm” sound and the “fault” sound. This is usually found on the back of the alarm.

LIFE EXPECTANCY OF CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

The manufacturer recommendations are five to ten years as stated on the packaging and should be replaced as specified as sensing chambers deteriorate over time.

FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE

- Proper installation, use, maintenance and inspection of your fuel burning appliances is always your first line of defence.
- Fireplaces can use up to ten times as much air in your home as your furnace. Ensure there is adequate combustion air for all appliances.
- Never use a Charcoal Barbeque grill, portable gas grill or similar equipment inside a home, tent, trailer or garage.
- Never operate vehicles in an enclosed area.
- Keep all flue vents and chimneys clear of debris and other blockages.
- Never block or plug a furnace combustion air intake or a fresh air vent.
- Do not store anything close to your appliance that could restrict air circulation.
- Have your fuel fired appliances checked regularly by a qualified person.