

Carbon Monoxide – The Senseless Killer

A common scenario

Five people were hospitalized after being exposed to high levels of carbon monoxide in a home after running a generator INDOORS. Around 7:45 a.m., a man asked his neighbor to call paramedics after his family started experiencing sudden illnesses including headaches, dizziness and nausea. Paramedics arrived and found 3 children and 2 adults suffering from exposure to carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide levels were detected at 200 parts per million (PPM). Normal carbon monoxide levels would be between 0 and 30 parts per million. They were lucky. They received oxygen therapy. They survived. Many do not.

Today, Carbon Monoxide (CO) is the most commonly encountered and pervasive poison in our environment. It is responsible for more recent deaths than any other single poison, and for enormous suffering and morbidity in those who survive.

Annually in the USA:



- Tens of thousands of people seek medical attention or lose several days, weeks, months of normal activity from CO exposure
- Over 40,000 emergency department visits for CO poisoning.
- More than 450 people die through unintentional CO exposure (CDC)
- As many as 2000 people die intentionally using CO (CDC)

It has been known for decades that CO poisoning can produce lasting health harm, mainly through its destructive effects on the central nervous system. Some studies found that 25-40% of people died during acute exposure, while 15-40% of the survivors suffered immediate or delayed neuropsychological deficit.

Now, an emerging body of evidence suggests that longer exposures to lower levels of CO, i.e. chronic CO poisoning, are capable of producing a myriad of debilitating residual effects that may continue for days, weeks, months and even years.

Where does Carbon Monoxide come from?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced from burning any fuel. Any fuel-burning appliance in your home is a possible source. When appliance and their vents are in good working order, there is little danger from CO.

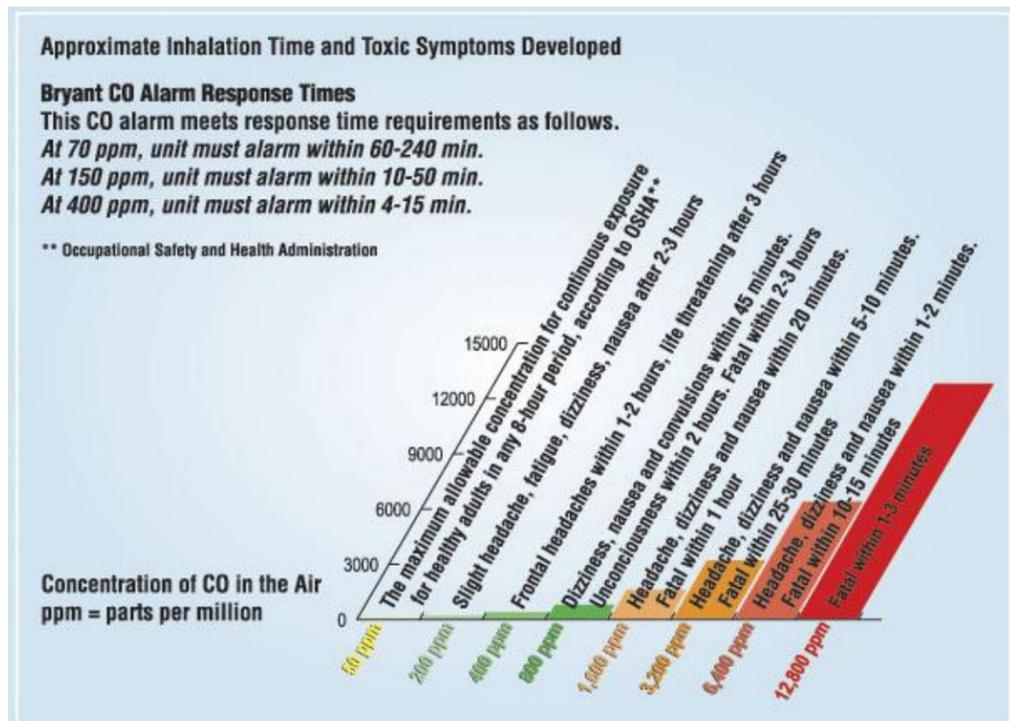
Additional sources include:

- Room heater
- Charcoal grill
- Automobile in closed garage
- Gas range
- Fireplace
- Oil, wood or gas furnace
- Gas or oil hot water heater



What does it do? Carbon monoxide displaces the body's essential oxygen. Besides flu-like symptoms, it can cause vomiting, loss of consciousness, brain damage and eventually, death. Unborn babies, infants, senior citizens and people with heart problems or breathing difficulties are especially at risk.

Feeling Better If symptoms disappear and you feel better when you go outside your home, but symptoms reappear when you go back inside, you may have CO poisoning.



Bryant's Carbon Monoxide Alarm protects you and your family from acute carbon monoxide poisoning by alerting you to dangerous levels of carbon monoxide inside your home.

DO'S AND DON'TS:

- Install CO detectors in your home, at least one near sleeping areas, another outside the furnace room.
- Have heating system inspected and serviced annually.
- Follow manufacturer's instruction for safe operation.
- Inspect chimneys and vents for improper connection, rust and stains.
- Be aware of any indications that an appliance is not operating properly.
- If your CO monitor activates, open windows, get everyone out and call for help.
- NEVER use a gas oven for heating.
- NEVER leave a car running in a garage.
- NEVER operate unvented fuel-burning appliances in a closed room.

Try finding the following words (in any direction) taken from the safety communication above in the maze below:

- Killer
- Exposure
- Generator
- Oxygen
- Poison
- Death
- Acute
- Burning
- Fuel
- Alarm
- Brain
- Closed
- Annually

O	B	E	W	A	N	K	E	N	O	B	E	R	T	D	V	A	L
R	F	J	A	N	E	T	R	I	C	K	Y	P	L	L	I	B	P
A	A	U	B	O	G	E	T	U	C	A	C	P	O	F	U	I	E
Y	L	N	E	E	O	X	Y	U	B	E	N	J	M	I	M	D	T
K	L	B	T	L	U	Y	L	L	A	U	N	N	A	G	S	A	E
D	E	E	H	A	L	Y	L	E	S	P	I	K	E	I	Q	O	R
E	S	L	K	M	D	I	X	Y	F	O	N	A	M	A	E	B	N
A	A	I	A	P	X	P	O	X	I	G	N	G	E	N	E	R	B
T	H	E	N	S	O	Y	W	K	I	L	L	E	R	T	C	R	Y
H	I	V	E	S	A	N	T	A	C	L	I	N	J	S	L	A	B
B	Y	E	U	C	O	L	D	B	E	R	S	E	E	L	O	L	G
A	U	R	I	P	A	L	A	R	M	R	A	R	R	I	S	F	N
R	E	B	O	R	L	A	N	D	L	O	S	A	R	O	E	L	I
B	P	O	R	C	U	P	I	N	E	S	P	T	Y	N	D	I	N
O	K	L	N	I	A	R	B	D	D	E	S	O	Z	S	E	P	R
Q	U	E	N	E	G	Y	X	O	X	L	D	R	X	Y	A	F	U
G	E	R	T	S	E	N	S	C	H	L	A	G	E	R	F	J	B