



Bay Roberts Volunteer Fire Department  
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## CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)

Carbon monoxide, abbreviated (CO), is produced by the incomplete combustion of fuels. It is often referred to as the “Silent Killer” because it is odorless, colorless gas which is very toxic & when inhaled lowers the bloods oxygen-carrying capacity.

Exposure, while sleeping, is very dangerous because it won’t wake you up.

Carbon Monoxide is more of a problem today then before because new homes are well insulated with very little air leakage & as a result air-exchange is limited. Because the older home is less insulated it allowed the air to exchange more easily.

Some of the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are headache, nausea & fatigue.

The more you are exposed to carbon monoxide or to a higher carbon monoxide concentration, the more severe the symptoms will get, to the point of drowsiness, confusion, brain damage & even death.

Some of the common sources of carbon monoxide accumulation in homes include:

- a blocked or poorly ventilated fireplace chimney or furnace flue
- faulty or damaged heating equipment ( cracked furnace heat exchanges)
- malfunctioning space heaters
- poorly ventilated garages

Carbon monoxide detectors should be placed in close proximity to bedrooms, furnace rooms & other areas where carbon monoxide might accumulate. Should your carbon monoxide alarm be activated, call the fire department immediately, and then leave the house to get to some fresh air.