

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

OWN THEM, IT'S THE LAW!

The implementation of carbon monoxide detectors in each home is current Illinois Law as of January 1, 2007. The law requires that a least one carbon monoxide detector be placed within 15 feet of all sleeping areas.

The carbon monoxide detectors are to be either of the following; batter powered, plug-in with battery back-up, or wired into the structure's alternating current power line with secondary battery back-up.

For information on Village of Romeoville Ordinance Chapter 91: Fire Prevention

Tips to know:

What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless gas. It is often the result of products not ventilating completely and produced when things such as oil, gas, or coal burn. Since you can't see, taste, or smell it, carbon monoxide can kill you before you know it's there.

How can carbon monoxide harm me?

Carbon monoxide affects what you need the most to survive – oxygen. The carbon monoxide bonds with your oxygen-carrying blood cells (hemoglobin) and takes the place of oxygen. When this happens it can cause you to get very ill. Carbon monoxide poisoning produces flu-like symptoms, such as headaches, fatigue, nausea, dizzy spells, confusion, and irritability. As the amount of carbon monoxide increases you can begin to have any of the following; vomiting, loss of consciousness, and eventually brain damage or death.



Victims exposed to high levels of carbon monoxide can become seriously ill or die **under 15 minutes!**

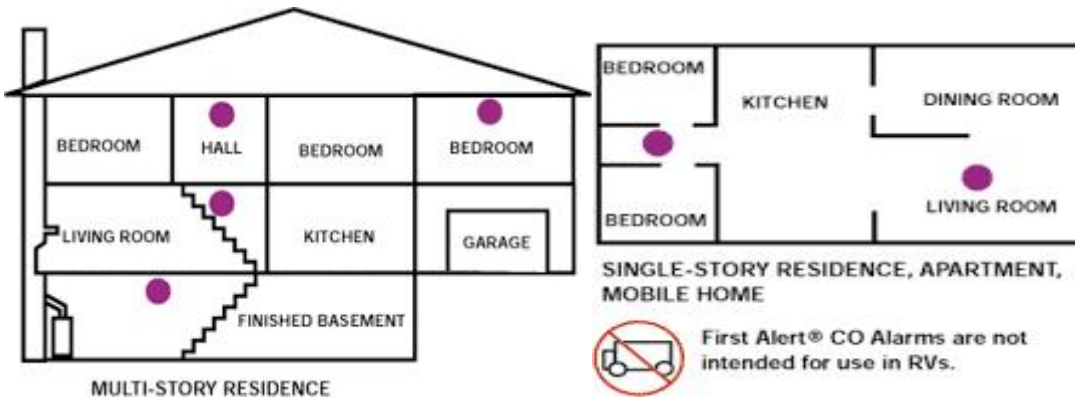
Where does carbon monoxide come from?

Carbon monoxide can be produced by gas or oil appliances such as a furnace, clothes dryer, range, oven, water heater, or space heater. Majority of the problems take place when appliances are not working properly. From the first moment you notice a problem try and get it fixed. Sometimes problems can even start if things are working well. That is why it is important to check the following; fuel burning appliances, furnaces, venting, and chimney systems at least once a year.



Where should you install the carbon monoxide alarm(s)?

- At least 15 feet from each sleeping area
- Where you can hear the alarm if it were to go off
- Out of reach of children and pets
- **DO NOT** place near gas or oil appliances (at least 15-20 feet away)
- **DO NOT** place where the alarm will have exposure to strong cleaners or high humidity



The Romeoville Fire Prevention Bureau will gladly assist residents (such as seniors or the disabled) in checking and installing of your carbon monoxide detectors. Please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at (815) 372-4045.

