

CARBON MONOXIDE TESTERS

Are They Necessary? Yes They Are!

Everywhere you read these days talks about carbon monoxide and the dangers associated with it. How serious can it be? And what should I look out for? Hopefully the following article will help answer some of those questions.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, highly-toxic gas that is produced by incomplete combustion. It is important to know that carbon monoxide is deadly from the toxicity standpoint long before it reaches the combustible range. It comes from appliances that consume coal, oil, wood, propane gas, natural gas, and other hydrocarbon-based fuels. It is absorbed by the hemoglobin of the blood cells and replaces the oxygen of the red blood cells that your body needs. When carbon monoxide replaces enough oxygen, your body begins to suffocate from the inside out and may cause brain damage, coma, or later, death.

The carbon monoxide concentrations and the effects from the concentrations vary from different levels of carbon monoxide and the exposure time. If you feel you have carbon monoxide in your building, you may call your local plumber or the City office to test your home for carbon monoxide. Effects can vary significantly based on age, weight and overall state of health.

<u>Concentrations</u>	<u>Effects</u>
9 parts per million	The maximum allowable concentration for short-term exposure in a living area according to the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers.
35 parts per million	The maximum allowable concentration for continuous exposure in any 8-hour period, according to federal law.
200 parts per million	Slight headache, tiredness, dizziness, nausea after 2-3 hours.
400 parts per million	Frontal headaches within 1-2 hours, life threatening after 3 hours, also maximum parts per million in flue gas, according to EPA and American Gas Association.
800 parts per million	Dizziness, nausea and convulsions within 45 minutes. Unconsciousness within 2 hours, death within 2-3 hours.
1,600 parts per million	Headache, dizziness and nausea within 20 minutes, death within 1 hour.
3,200 parts per million	Headache, dizziness and nausea within 5-10 minutes, death within 30 minutes.
6,400 parts per million	Headache, dizziness and nausea within 1-2 minutes, death within 10-15 minutes.
12,800 parts per million	Death within 1-3 minutes.

If you suspect a problem please call your local plumber. Or you may call the City Offices at 551-2565 to test your home at no charge to you.