

# Carbon Monoxide Safety



**Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas. It has no odor. CO gas is poisonous. It can make a person feel sick and can be deadly. In the home, heating and cooking devices that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.**

## **CO ALARMS**

- »»» CO alarms should be installed outside each sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. It is best to use interconnected alarms. When one sounds, all CO alarms in the home sound.
- »»» Follow the instructions on the package to properly install the CO alarm.
- »»» Test CO alarms at least once a month.
- »»» Replace CO alarms according to the instructions on the package.
- »»» Know the sounds the CO alarm makes. It will sound if CO is detected. It will make a different sound if the battery is low or if it is time to get a new CO alarm.
- »»» If the battery is low, replace it.
- »»» If the CO alarm sounds, you must get fresh air. Move outdoors, by an open window or near an open door. Make sure everyone in the home gets to fresh air. Call the fire department from a fresh air location. Stay there until help arrives.

## **PREVENT CO POISONING**

- »»» When warming a vehicle, move it out of the garage. Do not run a fueled engine indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not blocked. Clear snow away.
- »»» During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- »»» Clear all debris from dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace vents.
- »»» A generator should be used outdoors. Use in a well-ventilated location away from windows, doors, and vent openings.
- »»» Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO. Only use them outside.
- »»» Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in.
- »»» Open the damper when using a fireplace for adequate ventilation.
- »»» Never use your oven or stove to heat your home.

## **FACT!**

CO is called the invisible killer because the gas cannot be seen or smelled. Take action to stay safe from CO poisoning.

**Orange County Fire Rescue Dept**

407-836-8337 - [www.ocfrd.com](http://www.ocfrd.com)



**Your Source for SAFETY Information**

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



# Babysitting Safety

**Having a babysitter** can give you peace of mind. It allows you to leave your child with someone you trust. Be sure your babysitter knows about fire safety. Be sure your babysitter knows what to do if there is a fire.

Show the babysitter your home escape plan and make sure the babysitter understands:

- »» two ways out of every room.
- »» where the outdoor meeting place is located.
- »» the fire department or emergency phone number.
- »» how to unlock all doors and windows.

If you allow your babysitter to cook, make sure the babysitter:

- »» keeps your child at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- »» keeps your child at least 3 feet away from the microwave oven.
- »» never leaves the room while cooking.
- »» keeps anything that can catch fire away from the stovetop.
- »» keeps pets off surfaces and countertops.

If the smoke alarm sounds make sure your babysitter knows to:

- »» get out of the home quickly with your child to safety.
- »» use the second way out if smoke is in the way.
- »» get low and go under the smoke to the exit if an escape must be made through smoke.

Store matches and lighters out of your child's reach. Candles should not be used by your babysitter.

Make sure your babysitter keeps a 3-foot "**kid-free zone**" around space heaters.

## REMEMBER

Always leave the phone number where you can be reached. Cell phones make this easy. Be sure the babysitter knows the address of the home.



## Babysitter Training

Many places offer babysitter classes. These are online and in the classroom. Some schools and hospitals give training. Classes teach how to care for children. They also teach first aid. They teach CPR. What to do in an emergency is also taught.

**Orange County Fire Rescue**

Community Risk: 407-836-8337



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