

# Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms and CO Poisoning

**Never Ignore an Alarming CO Alarm!**

**It is warning you of a potentially deadly hazard.**

A working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are the most important device you can have in your home. They provide essential early warning of a problem so you and your family can safely escape.

Requirements for carbon monoxide, or CO, detectors (alarms) went into effect in 2005 for all buildings where people sleep. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a deadly, colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. It is produced by the incomplete burning of various fuels. Carbon monoxide poisoning can mimic flu symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, nausea and fatigue. Higher levels of exposure result in disorientation, drowsiness, unconsciousness and death.

Common sources of carbon monoxide include heating appliances, water heaters, clothes dryers, emergency generators, temporary cooking appliances or space heaters and motor vehicles running in attached garages or adjacent to a building.

OWNER – OCCUPIED Single Family Free Standing Dwellings

CO alarms are required to be installed in the vicinity of any bedrooms for all new dwellings and dwellings that are sold or transferred.

Carbon Monoxide alarms installed or replaced in a dwelling after **July 1, 2005** must be directly wired to the building electrical service and have a battery backup. One and Two family dwellings are allowed to use a plug in style alarm with battery backup.

Alarms that are hard-wired into the home electrical system should be installed by a qualified electrician.