

## **Carbon Monoxide Safety**

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas produced by incomplete burning fuel-containing carbon. Carbon monoxide poisoning can cause illness, brain damage and death. CO cannot be seen, smelled or tasted. Any fuel-burning appliance in the home can form CO.

CO is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the U.S. The Federal Center for Disease Control estimates CO poisoning annually claims nearly 500 lives and causes more than 15,000 visits to hospital emergency rooms.

Wisconsin Act 205 requires that most new construction dwellings must have CO detectors installed with construction effective October 1, 2008. It also recommends that all buildings with fuel burning appliances or attached garages have CO detectors.

Carbon monoxide detectors can be purchased at any hardware store and are fairly inexpensive. CO detectors should be installed near sleeping areas of homes so the alarm can be easily heard. CO detectors can be installed in most outlets, above counters or near the floor, because the vapor density of CO is .97 nearly the same as air at 1. CO gas will evenly disperse.

If a CO detector is alarming or CO related symptoms and illness is felt. Call your local fire department to test your home. Leave your house immediately for fresh air. In cases of a high exposure to CO go to emergency room or call 911 for medical assistance. If you have any questions, please call Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue at 886-6200.