



COAL CITY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

35 South DeWitt Place
Coal City, Illinois 60416

(815) 634-4700 | STATION
(815) 634-4069 | FAX

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nick Doerfler Firefighter/Paramedic
Phone: 815.634.4700
E-Mail: ndoerfler@ccfire.net

Colorless, Odorless, Tasteless and Deadly

COAL CITY, ILLINOIS – As the leaves have began to change and fall, this can bring the relief of the summer’s heat to some as well as dread of the approaching cold weather of winter to others. “Carbon monoxide is a very dangerous and real threat,” Harold Holsinger, Coal City Fire Protection District, Fire Chief stated, “calling 9-1-1 even if no one is feeling the symptoms can save your life.”

Carbon monoxide (CO) is the number one cause of poisoning deaths in the United States. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, "there are approximately 2,100 unintentional deaths from carbon monoxide (CO) every year in the U.S. and the use of CO Alarms could potentially prevent many of these fatalities." In addition, more than 10,000 CO injuries occur annually from this colorless, odorless and tasteless poison.

Carbon monoxide (CO) can be produced when burning any fuel: gasoline, propane, natural gas, oil, wood and coal. It is the product of incomplete combustion. Carbon monoxide can kill in minutes or hours depending on the level of CO in the air.

If CO is inhaled at damaging levels it can lead to breathing difficulties, impaired judgment and memory, damage to the nervous system, cardiac trauma, brain damage, coma and even death. Everyone is susceptible, but experts agree that unborn babies, young children, pregnant women, senior citizens and people with heart or respiratory problems are especially vulnerable and are at the highest risk for death or serious injury. For this reason it is not only recommended but is the law that any home have a CO monitor within 15 feet of any sleeping area in any residence that has any type of gas operated appliances.

Initial symptoms are similar to the flu with no fever. Dizziness, fatigue/weakness, throbbing headache, nausea/vomiting, irregular breathing, sleepiness and confusion can all be possible symptoms.

Proactive steps are also recommended. Cleaning out dryer vent pipes and lint catches will not only help prevent CO problems but also reduce the chance of fire. Water heater vent pipes and chimneys should

also be clean and clear of debris so that CO and other potentially dangerous gases can properly leave your home. Fireplace chimneys should be checked and cleaned annually by properly trained and certified companies.

Furnace Air filters should be clean and if there is any problem in your filter you should change it immediately. Discoloration, soot or build-up around the burner access door and vents indicates a problem, which should be redressed immediately. The venting system should be proper and the soft, rusted, or broken vent piping can release combustion products into your home. It is recommended an expert also check this.

For more safety information about this or other topics please visit us at www.ccfire.net.

#