

FACTS ABOUT CARBON MONOXIDE

- CO is a highly toxic, lighter than air gas which is most often found in an area surrounding a combustion source (such as a furnace, boiler or space heater) where there is insufficient oxygen to allow for complete combustion of the fuel in use.
- CO is very dangerous because it is colorless, odorless, tasteless and non-irritating. It is virtually impossible to detect carbon monoxide without a testing instrument.
- Over 1400 people die each year from carbon monoxide poisoning in the United States, and more than 10,000 seek medical attention
- While most of us know that high levels of CO are harmful, what is less well known is that CO is a cumulative poison.
- CO can slowly build up in the blood stream where it combines with blood hemoglobin. CO replaces the oxygen in the bloodstream until there is too little oxygen in the bloodstream to support life.
- Death from CO poisoning can happen suddenly. Victims of CO poisoning are overcome and rendered helpless before they realize that any danger exists.

PLEASE NOTE

Due to the high rate of absorption of carbon monoxide by the human body, prolonged exposure to low concentrations (below 200ppm) of carbon monoxide may result in harmful effects.

In the event experience with flu-like symptoms occur, i.e. frequent headaches, nausea, vomiting or periods of dizziness, consult a physician! Additionally, consult your local gas company or a licensed heating contractor for a low leakage inspection.

CARBON MONOXIDE

EFFECT ON THE HUMAN BODY

Concentration of CO, time of exposure and symptoms

CO LEVELS and CONCENTRATIONS **	SYMPTOMS
0.02% 200ppm	Light headache within 2 to 3 hours
0.04% 400ppm	Frontal headache within 2 to 3 hours, increasing within 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 hours
0.08% 800ppm	Dizziness, nausea and spasms within 45 minutes, unconscious within 2 hours.
0.16% 1600ppm	Headache, dizziness and nausea within 20 minutes. DEATH within 2 hours.
0.32% 3200ppm	Headache, dizziness and nausea within 5 to 10 minutes. DEATH within 30 minutes.
0.64% 6400ppm	Headache within 1 to 2 minutes. DEATH within 10 to 15 minutes.
1.20% 12,000ppm	DEATH WITHIN 3 MINUTES.

** CONCENTRATIONS OF CARBON MONOXIDE BELOW 200ppm ARE NOT DETECTED BY THE LIFE MONITORING UNIT