



CARBON MONOXIDE IS A SILENT KILLER.

Take measures to protect your family.

With the welcoming cool season upon us, many of us will be firing up our furnaces for the first time since spring. Before you use any fossil-fuel appliance, make sure your carbon monoxide detector is in working order.

Where is Carbon Monoxide (CO) found?

CO can build up indoors and poison people and animals who breathe it. Household appliances such as space heaters, gas ovens, dryers and furnaces emit carbon monoxide during regular use. Household vents normally channel carbon monoxide from an appliance or furnace to the outdoors. When an appliance vent leaks, carbon monoxide can seep into the home and pose a serious poisoning risk.

Other common sources of carbon monoxide include gasoline-powered vehicles, lawn mowers, weed-eaters, chain saws, and snow blowers, as well as charcoal grills and gas lanterns.

What are the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

Carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless, and otherwise undetectable to your senses; you may not know you're being exposed. The initial symptoms of low to moderate carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever). They include:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Dizziness

Who is at risk from CO poisoning?

Carbon monoxide is a gas produced by an incomplete burning of carbon-containing fuels that is an undetected threat in many homes. It has no color, taste or smell and kills more than 400 people in the United States every year. Most deaths occur during the winter heating season. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year about 20,000 Americans seek medical attention or lose a day of normal activity due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

High level CO poisoning results in progressively more severe symptoms, including:

- Mental confusion
- Vomiting
- Loss of muscular coordination
- Loss of consciousness
- Ultimately death

Symptom severity is related to both the carbon monoxide level and duration of exposure. If you think you are experiencing symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, step outside into fresh air immediately. Then call emergency services using a cellular phone or from a neighbor's home to report your symptoms. You could lose consciousness and die if you stay in your home.

How can I prevent CO poisoning in my home?

- Don't use an oven or gas stovetop to heat your home.
- Don't leave a space heater running or the stove or fireplace burning while you're sleeping.
- Never let your car run in the garage, even if the garage door is open.
- Have your fuel-burning appliances, including oil and gas furnaces, gas water heaters, gas ranges and ovens, gas dryers, gas or kerosene space heaters, fire places, and wood stoves inspected by a trained professional at the beginning of every heating season.
- Make certain that flues and chimneys are connected, in good condition, and not blocked.
- Choose appliances that vent their fumes to the outside whenever possible, have them properly installed, and maintain them according to manufacturer's instructions. Read and follow all of the instructions.

While carbon monoxide detectors are a useful tool, they're a backup system not the first line of defense against poisoning. Your first measure of prevention should always be proper use and maintenance of fuel-burning appliances.

Public Act 94-741: Effective January 1, 2007, every Illinois home is required to have at least one carbon monoxide alarm in an operating condition within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping purposes. Homes that do not rely on the burning of fuel for heat, ventilation or hot water; are not connected to a garage; and are not near a source of carbon monoxide (as determined by the local building commissioner) are not required to install carbon monoxide detectors.

Helpful links

Illinois Department of Public Health: <http://dph.illinois.gov>; Center for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/co/faqs.htm>



What to Expect at Your Safe Housing Inspection

We strongly recommend that you conduct your own inspection of each rental unit/dwelling prior to the City's inspection to assure they are in the best condition possible and correct any potential violations. Please use the Checklist located on the City's website as a guide: www.cityofedwardsville.com/rental

Who needs to be present for the inspection?

We only require that the owner, owner's agent, or representative be present for the inspection. Tenants can be present but it is not mandatory.

What should I bring to the inspection?

Some violations can be corrected during the inspection and we encourage you to do so. The following items would be helpful in resolving potential violations that are easily repaired:

- Batteries – for smoke detectors
- Outlet & light switch covers
- Step stool or ladder
- Tool box or screwdriver (at minimum)
- Keys for each building/unit
- Pen & paper for your notes

What are the most common violations?

- GFI's not installed or inoperable above kitchen countertops and/or bathrooms
- Washing machine outlets are not grounded or GFCI protected.
- Outlets and/or light switch covers are missing or the outlet is not secured to the wall.
- Smoke alarms are not present or they are inoperable. They are required on each level, within 15 feet outside of sleeping areas and in every sleeping room.
- Carbon monoxide detectors not present. They are required within 15 feet outside of sleeping areas if the home has fuel burning appliances or an attached garage.
- Sleeping room windows do not open or do not stay in an open position.
- Gas fired furnaces and/or water heaters do not have adequate combustion air openings.
- Water heater does not have a temperature & pressure relief valve drain pipe installed.
- Required handrails (over four risers) are missing or not secured.

What happens if there are violations found that could not be corrected on site?

- A Notice of Violation will be prepared and a deadline date will be established by which to correct all violations (generally 30 days). Staff will email or mail the Notice of Violation to the provided address of owner or owner's agent.
- Notification will include if a physical re-inspection is required or if photographic or other evidence of repair will be accepted.

How do I schedule a Safe Housing Inspection?

Contact the Rental Inspection Coordinator at 618-692-2331 or email: rentalregistration@cityofedwardsville.com

How will re-inspections be scheduled and conducted?

Owner or owner's agent should contact the Rental Inspection Coordinator prior to deadline date stated in the Notice of Violation to schedule the re-inspection. If a re-inspection is not scheduled by the deadline, and the owner or owner's agent fails to comply or work with staff; the property owner will be cited and must appear in Municipal Court. Fines will be assessed.

What if a new tenant moves in my property?

Contact the Rental Inspection Coordinator (preferably within 30 days of occupancy) and provide the new tenant(s) name and contact information.

Contact Info:

City of Edwardsville • Public Works Department • 200 East Park Street • Edwardsville, IL 62025
P: 618-692-2331 • E: rentalregistration@cityofedwardsville.com • W: www.cityofedwardsville.com/rental