

# Carbon Monoxide Gas Can Kill Quickly

Knowing the facts can save your life!



## WHAT

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is a poisonous gas that we can't smell, see, or taste. A smoke alarm cannot detect it. This silent killer can kill in minutes.

## HOW

The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. CO symptoms are often described as "flu-like." If you breathe in a lot of CO it can make you pass out or kill you.



## WHO

- ▶ **Anyone** can be affected.
- ▶ From 2000-2015, 79 New Jersey residents died from non-fire related, accidental CO poisoning.
- ▶ In 2017 alone, 487 residents were treated in emergency rooms for non-fire related, accidental CO poisoning. Their age ranged from less than 5 years old to over 60 years old.



## WHY

Many household items including gas- and oil-burning furnaces, gas hot water heaters, portable generators, and charcoal grills produce this poisonous gas. The same is true with vehicles, snow blowers, or any gasoline-powered engine left idling in a garage especially one attached to a home or business.

**Be safe. Protect your family. Take these basic precautions:**

## Oil and Gas Furnaces and Hot Water Heaters

- ▶ **Have your heating and hot water appliances inspected at least once a year.**

## Portable Generators

- ▶ **Never use a generator inside your home, carport, or garage, even if doors and windows are open.**
- ▶ **Only use generators outside, more than 20 feet away from your home, doors, and windows.**

## CO Detectors

- ▶ **Install battery-operated or battery back-up CO detectors near every sleeping area in your home.**
- ▶ **Check CO detectors regularly to be sure they are working properly.**

