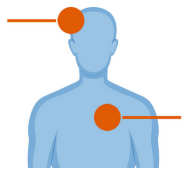


→ Carbon Monoxide Exposure Symptoms



Victims of carbon monoxide poisoning generally present with a severe headache, chest pain, altered

mental status, shortness of breath, nausea or vomiting, dizziness, collapse, loss of consciousness, or cherry red lips or skin.



CAN'T BE SEEN



CAN'T BE SMELLED



CAN'T BE HEARD



CAN BE STOPPED

CARBON MONOXIDE, THE SILENT KILLER

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is produced when a fuel is burned, such as natural gas, wood, propane, coal, gasoline, or kerosene. Inadequate ventilation of this exhaust or a malfunction of a fuel burning appliance causes Carbon monoxide to accumulate in a room or house. Carbon monoxide exposure kills 400 people each year on average.

Carbon monoxide binds to hemoglobin at a rate 200-300 times more than oxygen. Hemoglobin transports 98% of the oxygen throughout our bodies, allowing us to function correctly. When carbon monoxide is introduced, it essentially prevents oxygen from traveling where it needs to and causes Hypoxia (a lack of oxygen to cells) decreasing or limiting the functionality of our bodies (Patel et al., 2021). Risk of 18%-35% of cognitive brain injury 1 year after poisoning (Hampson et al., 2013)

Carbon monoxide is odorless, tasteless, and colorless. The only way to determine the presence of carbon monoxide in a room or house is a detector. Unlike smoke and fire, closing a door may not isolate a room from carbon monoxide reaching deadly levels. Carbon monoxide is very, very small and can pass through drywall (Hampson et al., 2013).

→ Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention

- Service fuel burning appliances each year
- Install CO detectors
- Don't use fuel burning appliances or equipment inside without proper ventilation or exhaust
- Use outdoor appliances or equipment more than 20 feet from windows, doors, or vents

→ Detector Activation



Get outside right away. Take pets and other household members with you and call 911. Do

not re-enter the structure until it has been cleared by emergency responders. Do not use the source appliance until it has been inspected, repaired, and tested by a qualified technician.