



INFORMATION SHEET:

ENERGY + HEALTH PROGRAM

SMOKE ALARM + CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) DETECTOR

The following information is from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Visit www.nfpa.org for additional information.

Smoke Alarms

Follow these guidelines when installing smoke alarms in houses:

- Smoke detectors powered by the building wiring require installation by a licensed electrician.
- Home has smoke alarms on every level.
- Home has a smoke alarm in every bedroom.
- Smoke alarms are located outside each separate sleeping area.
- Smoke alarms are located at least 10 feet from a stationary or fixed cooking appliance.
- For larger homes (where the interior floor area on a given level is greater than 1,000 square feet), there is an average of at least 1 smoke alarm for every 500 square feet.
- If more than one smoke alarm is required, verify they are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.
- If smoke alarms are all installed verify they are working.

The following information is from the EPA website. Visit www.epa.gov/mold for additional information.

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

CO is a colorless, odorless gas that interferes with the delivery of oxygen throughout the body. At high concentrations can cause a range of symptoms from headaches, dizziness, weakness, nausea, confusion, and disorientation, to fatigue in healthy people and episodes of increased chest pain in people with chronic heart disease. The symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are sometimes confused with the flu or food poisoning.

CO is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. If appliances that burn fuel are maintained and used properly, the amount of CO produced is usually not hazardous. However, if appliances are not working properly or are used incorrectly, dangerous levels of CO can result. Hundreds of people die accidentally every year from CO poisoning caused by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning appliances. Even more die from CO produced by idling cars.

CO Detector

CO Detectors are widely available in stores and one should be installed as a back up, but not as a replacement for proper use and maintenance of fuel-burning appliances. Follow these guidelines when installing CO detectors in houses. Installation of smoke detectors which are powered by the building wiring require installation by a licensed electrician.

- Home has CO detectors outside of each sleeping area, including the basement and any other locations required by applicable laws.
- Do not place a CO alarm within five feet of household chemicals or directly on top of or near fuel-burning appliances.
- Test and replace the battery at least once a year. If the CO detector is wired directly into your home's electrical system, test it monthly.