



**CAN'T BE
SEEN**



**CAN'T BE
SMELLED**



**CAN'T BE
HEARD**



**CAN BE
STOPPED**

Fact Sheet

Protect your family from the silent killer

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas that has no odor or color. But it is very dangerous. It can cause sudden illness and death. CO is found in combustion fumes, like those made by heating systems, lanterns, gas ranges, stoves and vehicles. When these things are operated in a place without a good flow of fresh air, carbon monoxide fumes can build up, causing a headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain and confusion.

It can be hard to tell if you are being poisoned by CO. You can't see it or smell it. That's why it's called the silent killer. You may just think you have the flu, or you may go to sleep without realizing you are in danger.

You can take important steps to protect your family from this silent killer.

- Install a battery-powered CO detector to warn you with an alarm if the CO levels get high.
- Have your chimney and your heating system, water heater, and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Never use a generator, camp stove, or portable flameless chemical heater in your home, or burn charcoal inside your house.
- Do not use your gas oven or stove-top to heat your home.
- Make sure your gas appliances are vented properly. If you smell an odor or need to patch a vent pipe, call a professional.
- Never run your car in the garage, even with the garage door open. Pull the vehicle outside of the garage to let it warm up. Have your vehicle's exhaust system checked each year. Be sure to roll down the windows if you have the back hatch of your vehicle open while it is running. Otherwise CO can build up inside the vehicle.

If you think you are experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning, get outside to fresh air immediately and call 911.

Learn more by visiting www.phelpscountyhealth.com, or call (573) 458-6010.

The Phelps/Maries County Health Department – caring for your family, caring for our community, caring for YOU!



Phelps/Maries County Health Dept

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