



CENTRAL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Serving the Town of Hillsborough and the City of Burlingame

Fire Prevention Bureau

Carbon monoxide safety

Carbon monoxide (CO) is often referred to as "the silent killer". CO is a colorless, tasteless and odorless gas which can derive from sources such as gas stoves, water heaters, fireplaces, gas or oil furnances, and car exhaust fumes. The effects of CO poisoning can range from mild flu-like symptoms, to severe headaches and drowsiness, to more extreme exposure such as loss of consciousness, convulsions, and heart and lung failure. It can also be deadly, so detection of this poisonous gas is extrememly important.

Beginning July 1, 2011, all existing single family homes be equipped with a CO detector. All multi-family homes (apartments, condominiums) must be equipped with a CO detector beginning January 1, 2013. The City of Burlingame and Town of Hillsborough Building Departments will enforce these requirements. Enforcement of this new law may occur at the time of a sale of a home, upon a rental agreement, or at completion of building construction that involves a permit. Contact your local building department for more information.

Choosing a detector and important tips

- CO alarms must be installed outside every bedroom, on every level, and in basements. They should NOT be placed in very humid rooms, garages, kitchens, or too close to fuel-burning appliances. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home: when one sounds, they all sound.
- CO devices may be combined with a smoke detector, if the combination device meets all specified State Fire Marshal listing and approval requirements.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement, mounting height, and maintenance.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move outside to fresh air and call 9-1-1. DO NOT reenter the premises until the emergency services responders have given you permission.
- Ensure you purchase a product that State Fire Marshal listed and approved. Also, take the following features into consideration: test button, "end of life" warning, digital display, and special lighted features for the hearing impaired.
- Treat your CO alarms as you would your smoke alarm: perform monthly tests, replace the batteries when low, and replace the entire unit after its lifespan.

Please visit the following websites for more information:

www.osfm.fire.ca.gov

www.hcd.ca.gov

www.nfpa.org

www.homesafetycouncil.com

You may also call Central County Fire Department at (650) 558-7600.