



Carbon Monoxide (CO) Facts

JANUARY 2020

Overview

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odourless, and poisonous gas. It is produced by the incomplete burning of common fuels such as gasoline, coal, natural gas, propane, heating oil, kerosene and methane, or any other combustible material such as wood, cloth, or paper. Fuels burn incompletely when an adequate supply of oxygen is not available.

QUICK FACTS:

- **Smoke inhalation from fires is the most common form of CO poisoning.**
- **Vehicle exhaust is the most common source of exposure for most people.**
- **The risk of CO poisoning increases during winter when homes are tightly sealed to conserve heat, and when fuel-burning appliances are used more often.**
- **Smoke inhalation from fires is the most common form of CO exposure.**

Symptoms of CO poisoning

LOW-LEVEL EXPOSURE:

Nausea	Loss of coordination
Dizziness	Impaired judgement
Muscle Aches	Confusion
Vomiting	Drowsiness
General weakness	Headaches

HIGH LEVEL EXPOSURE:

Abdominal pain
Diarrhea
Impaired vision
Convulsions
Coma
Death

Medical experts believe the severity of symptoms increase for unborn babies, infants, children, seniors and people with heart or lung problems.

Potential sources

These potential sources can be found in your home, camper/RV or garage:

Fire places	Furnaces	Barbeques
Clogged chimney	Gas space heaters	Vehicle exhaust fumes
Flues	Wood and gas stoves	Generators
Water heaters	Charcoal grills	Tobacco smoke

For more information: CarbonMonoxideAlberta.ca
[Safety Codes Council: Carbon Monoxide Alarm Home Installation](#)