



Ventura City Fire Department

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10 Steps to Avoiding Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning

1. Make sure appliances are installed and operated according to the manufacturer's instructions, local building codes and applicable local and state laws. Most appliances should be installed by qualified professionals. Have the heating system professionally inspected and serviced annually to ensure proper operation. The inspector should also check chimneys and flues for blockages, corrosion, partial and complete disconnections, and loose connections.
2. Never service fuel-burning appliances without proper knowledge, skill and tools. Always refer to the owners' manual when performing minor adjustments or servicing fuel-burning equipment. Never operate unvented fuel-burning appliances in any room where people are sleeping.
3. Never operate a portable generator or any other gasoline engine-powered tool either in or near an enclosed space such as a garage, house or other building. Even with open doors and windows, these spaces can trap CO and allow it to quickly build to lethal levels.
4. Install a CO alarm on every level of the home and in the hallway near every separate sleeping area of the home. Make sure the alarm cannot be covered up by furniture or draperies.
5. Never use portable fuel-burning camping equipment inside a home, garage, vehicle or tent unless it is specifically designed for use in an enclosed space and provides instructions for safe use in an enclosed area.
6. Never burn charcoal inside a home, garage, vehicle or tent.
7. Never leave a car running in an attached garage, even with the garage door open.

8. Never use gas appliances such as ranges, ovens or clothes dryers to heat your home.
9. Do not cover the bottom of natural gas or propane ovens with aluminum foil. Doing so blocks the combustion air flow through the appliance and can produce CO.
10. During home renovations, ensure that appliance vents and chimneys are not blocked by tarps or debris. Make sure appliances are in proper working order when renovations are complete.

For more information on California's carbon monoxide alarm laws, visit www.firstalert.com/california.