



CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas. It has no odor. CO gas is poisonous. It can make a person feel sick and can be deadly. In the home, heating and cooking devices that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

CO ALARMS

- CO alarms should be installed outside each sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. It is best to use interconnected alarms. When one sounds, all CO alarms in the home sound.
- Follow the instructions on the package to properly install the CO alarm.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month.
- Replace CO alarms according to the instructions on the package.
- Know the sounds the CO alarm makes. It will sound if CO is detected. It will make a different sound if the battery is low or if it is time to get a new CO alarm.
- If the battery is low, replace it.
- If the CO alarm sounds, you must get fresh air. Move outdoors, by an open window or near an open door. Make sure everyone in the home gets to fresh air. Call the fire department from a fresh air location. Stay there until help arrives.

PREVENT CO POISONING

- When warming a vehicle, move it out of the garage. Do not run a fueled engine indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not blocked. Clear snow away.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- Clear all debris from dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace vents.
- A generator should be used outdoors. Use in a well-ventilated location away from windows, doors, and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO. Only use them outside.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in.
- Open the damper when using a fireplace for adequate ventilation.
- Never use your oven or stove to heat your home.

FACT!

CO is called the invisible killer because the gas cannot be seen or smelled. Take action to stay safe from CO poisoning.



SMOKE ALARMS AT HOME

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

FACTS!

Smoke alarms should be installed inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.

Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or the alarms are not working.



WINTER HOLIDAY SAFETY

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING


- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.


Source: NFPA

Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS!

 **Two of every five home decoration fires are started by candles.**

 **Nearly half of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.**



ESCAPE PLANNING

Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.

SAFETY TIPS

- **MAKE** a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- **KNOW** at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- **HAVE** an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- **PRACTICE** your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- **PRACTICE** using different ways out.
- **TEACH** children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- **CLOSE** doors behind you as you leave.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS

- If the smoke alarm sounds, **GET OUT AND STAY OUT**. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- If you have to escape through smoke, **GET LOW AND GO** under the smoke to your way out .
- **CALL** the fire department from outside your home.



HOME FIRE ESCAPE CHECKLIST

To begin developing a home fire escape plan follow the steps below

- I have made a map of our home indicating all windows and doors that can be used to get outside if the smoke alarm sounds.
- All members of my household have walked through the home with me to identify two ways out of each room.
- The home fire escape plan includes two ways out of every room in the home (usually a door and a window).
- All ways out of each room and the home are clear, free of clutter and can be opened easily.
- Security bars on doors and windows have a quick-release device so they can be used to get outside in case of a fire.
- There is a meeting place (a tree, neighbor's home, street light) outside in front of our home where everyone knows to meet upon exiting.
- Our house number can be clearly seen from the street.
- Our plan includes the local emergency telephone number (or 9-1-1) to be contacted immediately upon leaving the home.
- There are working smoke alarms in all required locations throughout our home; there's at least one on every level of the home (including the basement), inside all bedrooms and outside each sleeping area.
- We all know what the smoke alarm sounds like, and what to do when we hear it.
- We have practiced our home fire escape drill, and will continue to do so at least twice a year.
- Everyone in our home knows how to get low and go under smoke, in case we need to escape through smoke.
- We all know if the smoke alarm sounds, get outside of the home and stay outside, and understand that we should alert the fire department to any people or pets trapped inside.

Source: NFPA