

# CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING



Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odourless, colourless, tasteless, deadly gas created when fuels such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane and oil burn incompletely. Elevated levels of carbon monoxide can cause illness or death before people even know it is there.

## What are the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

Exposure to carbon monoxide can cause flu-like symptoms such as:

- › headaches
- › nausea
- › dizziness
- › burning eyes
- › confusion
- › drowsiness
- › loss of consciousness



## Common sources of carbon monoxide:

1. Furnace
2. Water Heater
3. Dryer
4. Fireplace
5. Stove
6. Car
7. BBQ
8. Blocked Vents or Chimney
9. Portable Generator



## How to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning

The best way to keep your family safe from carbon monoxide is to follow these simple precautions:

1. Install carbon monoxide alarms on all levels of your home. Dual/combination detectors can sense both smoke and carbon monoxide. These types of alarms can save space and provide extra protection within a home.
2. Have your heating equipment and fuel-burning appliances properly installed, maintained and inspected by a licensed contractor.
3. Make sure all furnace panels or grills are in place and the fan compartment door is secured.



4. Make sure that your chimneys and flue vents are clear of debris, frost and snow.
5. Never barbeque on a charcoal, gas or pellet grill indoors or in a garage, even if the garage door is open .
6. Never run your vehicle in the garage. (even if the garage door is open)
7. Never operate a generator in your home, garage or crawl space or near windows, doors or other openings or vents.
8. Never use a gas range, oven or dryer for heating your home.
9. Never start a lawn mower, snow blower, ATV, tractor or motorcycle in an enclosed garage or shed.



### **Carbon monoxide dangers signs:**

- The air in your house is stuffy.
- There is excessive moisture on windows and walls.
- There is a build-up of soot around appliances and vents.
- There is a yellow flame in a natural gas appliance instead of a blue one.
- Your pilot light keeps going out.
- More than one person of your household is feeling ill.
- Persons feel ill at home and better when they are away from the house for a while.



### **When in doubt, call us out!**

Call SFD's non-emergency number (306-975-3030) if:

- You have concerns about your carbon monoxide alarm.
- You suspect carbon monoxide in your home, but no one has physical symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.

If you or a family member shows physical symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, immediately move to a location with fresh air and call 9-1-1.



**Learn more at [saskatoon.ca/carbonmonoxide](https://saskatoon.ca/carbonmonoxide)**

**IN AN EMERGENCY,  
CALL 9-1-1.**



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306-975-7715 | [saskatoon.ca/fire](https://saskatoon.ca/fire)**