

## **CARBON MONOXIDE**

- Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fossil fuels such as gasoline, wood or coal burn incompletely. In the home gas heating and cooking equipment, fire places, and gas water heaters are possible sources of CO.
- Vehicles running in attached garages also produce dangerous levels of CO
- CO poisoning can cause a number of symptoms, depending on the length and severity of exposure.
- Mild exposure can result in a slight headache, nausea, vomiting and fatigue “Mild flu-like symptoms”
- Medium exposure can produce headaches, drowsiness, confusion, and a fast heart rate
- Extreme exposure can produce unconsciousness, convulsions, brain damage and eventually death
- The best defenses against CO poisoning are safe use of vehicles particularly in attached garages, proper installation, use and maintenance of household gas cooking and heating equipment
- Installing a carbon monoxide detector in your home can provide early warning of accumulating CO and can alert residents to a possible dangerous situation before symptoms are noticed
- If ANY symptoms of CO poisoning are present evacuate the building or home and call 911