

# Carbon Monoxide Gas Can Kill Quickly

Knowing the facts can save your life!



## WHAT

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is a poisonous gas that we can't smell, see, or taste. A smoke alarm cannot detect it. This silent killer can kill in minutes.

## HOW

The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. CO symptoms are often described as "flu-like." If you breathe in a lot of CO it can make you pass out or kill you.

## WHO

- ▶ **Anyone** can be affected.
- ▶ From 2000-2019, the underlying cause of death for 275 New Jersey residents was CO poisoning\*.
- ▶ In 2019 alone, 374 residents were treated in emergency rooms for non-fire related, accidental CO poisoning. Their age ranged from less than 5 years old to over 80 years old\*.

## WHY

Many household items including gas- and oil-burning furnaces, gas hot water heaters, portable generators, and charcoal grills produce this poisonous gas. The same is true with vehicles, snow blowers, or any gasoline-powered engine left idling in a garage especially one attached to a home or business.

\*Additional data on CO poisonings from NJSHAD:

- Deaths: <http://bit.ly/2TLL0tx>
- Emergency Department Visits: <http://bit.ly/202E19e>
- Hospitalizations: <https://bit.ly/3ndNyt>

**Be safe. Protect your family.  
Take these basic precautions<sup>†</sup>:**

## CO Detectors

- ▶ Install battery-operated or battery back-up CO detectors near every sleeping area in your home
- ▶ Check CO detectors regularly to be sure they are working properly.

A survey showed an estimated 20% of residents in some NJ counties reported not having a CO detector in their home: <https://bit.ly/3BWMjs1>

## Portable Generators

- ▶ Never use a generator inside your home, carport, or garage, even if doors and windows are open.
- ▶ Only use generators outside, more than 20 feet away from your home, doors, and windows.

## Oil and Gas Furnaces and Hot Water Heaters

- ▶ Have your heating and hot water appliances inspected at least once a year

<sup>†</sup>For additional information:

EPA: [Protect Your Family and Yourself from CO Poisoning](#)