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No Matter What's in Store this May Make your **Summer Space a Safe Place**

No matter what's in store this May '2-4' - whether you're opening the cottage, sparking up the grill, pitching a tent, tuning up your RVs or trailers or simply gearing up to enjoy the great outdoors - your safety partners at the Technical Standards Safety and Authority (TSSA) and Ontario Poison Centre (OPC) want you to keep these safety tips in mind so you can make the most of your days as summer unofficially gets underway.

Carbon Monoxide Safety

A highly poisonous and deadly gas, Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a by-product of incomplete combustion of carbon-containing (or carbon-based) fuels such as natural gas, propane, oil, wood, charcoal and more. And while some of us may tend to think that this is a winter concern, CO knows no seasonal boundaries.

Commonly known as the 'silent killer' this poisonous, gas can go undetected as you can't see it, smell it, or taste it. CO can make its way into popular summertime activities such as cottaging, camping, BBQing, RVing or boating. No matter what's in store this May '2-4' - CO should have no place in your summer space. Take Action. Think Safe.

have all fuel-burning appliances inspected through the services of a TSSA-registered contractor

install, certified, working CO alarms

never use indoors, nor in enclosed spaces, any fuelburning equipment that is specifically designed and approved for outdoor use only such as generators, portable heaters, BBQs and camping

stoves

keep external exhaust vents - whether at the cottage or your trailer or RV - free of debris or blockages

know the sources; know the symptoms of CO poisoning

if you suspect CO poisoning, get outdoors immediately and call 911

"No matter the season, any one CO incident is always one too many. Keep in mind that while seasons change, the risks of CO exposure don't," says Owen Kennedy, Director of TSSA's Fuels Safety Program. "Even though fuelburning appliances may be safely designed, they can emit deadly levels of CO gas if not properly installed, inspected and maintained regularly. Know the sources. Know the symptoms. Know the steps to keep yourselves, family, friends and loved ones – pets included - safe this summer,"

stresses Kennedy. Other Poison Prevention

Whether indoors or out, don't let other potential poisoning hazards, such as snake bites, poisonous plants, chemicals, or medications that may be in your environment, dampen your spirits on these summer days.

Storage

Keep harmful products and medications "locked up tight and out of sight" in a cupboard or container. There are a variety of safety latches that can be purchased to lock a cupboard or cabinet. Find them in the child safety section of local stores. You should choose one that works for your family. For more details, check out the Poison Storage Checklist

Snake Bites

Be prepared when hiking or visiting an area where rattlesnakes live. Have an emergency plan. Know how to contact the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in the area and know how to get to the closest hospital.

if you hear a rattle, move away from the sound of the snake. Do not try to touch it.

if bitten by a snake, remain

if you experience a snake bite, call 1-844-POISON-X (1-844-764-7669) or immediately call 911

Plant and Mushroom Safey Plants, berries and mush-

rooms are attractive to many and particularly young children who like to put things in their mouths. Make sure you know the names of plants that grow inside and outside of your home. If your child eats a plant, berry, seed, bulb, or wild mushroom that you aren't sure about or think may be poisonous, call OPC at 1-844-POI-SON-X (1-844-764-7669) (Toll-free) or 416-813-5900 or 911 immediately.

do not assume that a plant is safe for people just because birds or wildlife eat it

do not suck nectar from flowers or make tea from flowers or leaves

cactus plants can cause skin to be irritated and should be kept away from children

poisonous and non-poisonous mushrooms may grow side by side

it can be dangerous to eat a mushroom that you have found outdoors

cooking outdoor mushrooms does NOT make them safe to eat

