

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING PREVENTION

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, deadly gas. Because you can't see, taste or smell it, CO can kill before you know it's there. CO is a by-product of combustion, present whenever fuel is burned. Sources of CO in a Monroe Court home could be, but not limited to, a gas furnace, gas range, gas dryer or gas fireplace. Your home was built to be energy efficient so insulation can trap CO in your home year round. Leaving your vehicle running or using a grill in your garage could cause CO to seep into your home. Because of the potential for CO poisoning, it is recommended that you regularly check your CO sources for proper operation, ensure vents are not blocked, and have a CO detector on each floor.

The Skippack Fire Company has responded to approximately 26 calls at Monroe Court since the beginning of 2008 for CO detector alarms sounding and less than half were for a dangerous release of CO. The Skippack Fire Company recommends that you replace the original CO detectors that were installed in your homes. The detectors installed in your homes when they were built will alarm and display GAS when they are actually reading small amounts of CO. In addition, the original detectors were installed too close to the furnace. There is an expected amount of CO from each source but if the detector is too close to the source, it picks up the normal release of gas. To avoid false alarms, you should make sure your detector is approximately 3-6 feet from the furnace or any heat source. Doing this could minimize the calls we make to your community for this reason.

CO detectors are not expensive and worth the price to protect yourself and your loved ones.

You can visit our website at http://www.skippackfire.com/fire_safety.htm to read more about CO detectors and other fire safety tips.

Haydn Marriott, Skippack Fire Chief