



# Midlothian Fire Department – Fire Prevention Bureau

*Stephen Hotwagner*

**Fire Chief**

*Shawn Gillis*

**Lieutenant**

*Michael Lonkar*

**Fire Prevention Officer**

## Residential Carbon Monoxide Detectors

2/1/2021

For more information, contact:

Michael Lonkar

Fire Prevention Officer

(708) 489-4742

[mlonkar@villageofmidlothian.org](mailto:mlonkar@villageofmidlothian.org)

Midlothian Fire Department would like to remind residents about Carbon Monoxide alarm requirements and recommendations.

February 1, 2021 – Are there Carbon Monoxide alarms installed in your home? If the answer is “no,” then your home doesn’t meet the updated requirements for Carbon Monoxide alarm installation. The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshall requires, as of January 1, 2007, homeowners, landlords, and building owners are required to install carbon monoxide (CO) detectors within 15 feet of rooms used for sleeping. This law applies only to those occupancies that use fossil fuel (natural gas) to cook, heat, or produce hot water, or occupancies that are connected to an enclosed garage.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is odorless, colorless, and tasteless. It is produced when any fossil fuel (natural gas), is burned. When fossil fuels do not burn properly, CO can build up and cause sickness and even death. Carbon monoxide kills about 200 people in the U.S. every year.

The carbon monoxide detector may be battery operated (10 year battery required as of 1/1/2023), plug-in with battery back-up, or wired into the home's AC power with a secondary battery back-up. It must also bear the label of a nationally recognized testing laboratory and must comply with the most recent standards of the Underwriters Laboratories or the Canadian Standard Association. There are several companies that offer combination smoke/carbon monoxide detectors.

### **FACTS:**

What is CO (Carbon Monoxide)?

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas created when fossil fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, kerosene, and methane) burn incompletely. Heating and cooking



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equipment burning these types of fuel are potential sources of carbon monoxide. Vehicles or generators running nearby or in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

Illinois passed the Carbon Monoxide Detector Alarm Act (430 ILCS 135) effective January 1, 2007. The requirements of this act are enforced by the local municipal Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

What appliances produce CO (Carbon Monoxide)?

- Dryers – even though you may plug them check towards the bottom of your unit and see if there is a gas connection!
- Water Heaters
- Furnaces or Boilers
- Fireplaces, both gas and wood burning
- Gas or wood, stoves and ovens - even though you may plug them check towards the bottom of your unit and see if there is a gas connection!
- Motor vehicles on attached garages
- Grills, generators, power tools, lawn equipment (gas powered equipment)
- Tobacco smoke
- Space heaters

## **Safety measures:**

- Never heat your home with your gas range or oven.
- Never burn charcoal inside your home or garage.
- Always open the chimney flue when you use your fireplace.
- Never run a combustion engine, such as your car, lawn mower or snow blower, in enclosed areas.

## **Installing a CO detector:**

- Install a CO detector within 15' of any room used for sleeping in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Do not install a CO detector near your kitchen or garage or in a room with a furnace.



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- If your CO detector goes off and you feel ill, leave the house and call 911 or the local fire department. If you do not feel ill, push your detector's reset button. If the alarm goes off again after a few minutes, open the windows, leave the house and call 911 or the local fire department.

## Recognize the symptoms of CO poisoning:

- Dizziness, nausea, headache and coughing
- Irregular heartbeat
- Pale skin with cherry red lips and ear tips

## Know what to do if you suspect CO poisoning:

- Get fresh air and stay outside.
- Call 911 or the local fire department.

Midlothian residents with questions and/or concerns about the updated carbon monoxide alarm requirements may contact the Midlothian Fire Department at (708) 489-4742 and ask for the Fire Prevention Officer, Michael Lonkar. You can also visit the websites listed below for more information!

NFPA - <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Safety-equipment/Carbon-monoxide>

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshall - [www.sfm.illinois.gov](http://www.sfm.illinois.gov) Public Act 094-0741

The Village of Midlothian - [www.villageofmidlothian.net](http://www.villageofmidlothian.net) under our municipal codes section.

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*Fire Prevention Officer*



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