



## FACT SHEET

# Preventing Carbon Monoxide Poisoning After an Emergency

**Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas. Breathing the gas can cause sudden illness and death.**

Storms and flooding can cause the power to go out. When this happens, you may look for other sources of energy to heat, cool and cook. If you use gas, kerosene, charcoal or wood, use caution. These fuels can cause carbon monoxide to build up indoors and in enclosed spaces. This includes homes, garages, campers, tents and carports. CO in the air can poison the people and animals inside.

### You can prevent carbon monoxide poisoning:

- **ONLY** use generators and gasoline, kerosene, charcoal and wood burning devices outdoors. Never use them indoors or in enclosed spaces like garages or carports.
- Place generators at least 25 feet from open doors, windows and vents.
- Never use a gas range or oven to heat a home.
- Never use a grill, hibachi, lantern or portable camp stove inside a home, tent or camper.
- Read and follow all safety tips and instructions. Look for them when you buy or use a generator, heater or other device fueled by gas, kerosene, charcoal and wood fuel sources.
- **Use a carbon monoxide detector.** It is the only way to know if you are being exposed.
- At least one carbon monoxide detector, operating by battery, should be in every home. Oregon law requires them in all rentals, new homes and homes for sale.
- Check the batteries twice a year.

### Know the signs of carbon monoxide poisoning:

Here are the most common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Headache;
- Weakness;
- Vomiting;
- Confusion.
- Dizziness;
- Nausea;
- Chest pain;

**If anyone shows these signs, immediately seek fresh air.** Also, call 911 or the Oregon Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Campaign Graphic (<https://www.nphic.org/Content/Toolkits/CarbonMonoxide/CO-Poisoning-Prevention-Campaign-Graphic.pdf>)