



Carbon Monoxide Alarms

What is Carbon Monoxide? :

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous, colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas. CO is formed from the incomplete burning of natural gas, propane, gasoline, kerosene, oil coal, wood, or other carbon based fuels.

Carbon monoxide is harmful when breathed because it displaces oxygen in the blood and deprives the heart, brain, and other vital organs of oxygen. Large amounts of CO can overcome you in minutes without warning – causing you to lose consciousness and suffocate.

Symptoms of CO poisoning may include tightness across the chest, headache, fatigue, dizziness, drowsiness, or nausea. During prolonged or high exposures, symptoms may worsen and include vomiting, confusion, muscle weakness, and collapse or loss of consciousness.

Carbon Monoxide Detection in the Homes: The International Residential Code requires carbon monoxide alarms in dwellings as follows:

For new construction, interior alterations and repairs, an approved carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms in dwelling units within which fuel-fired appliances are installed and in dwelling units that have attached garages. (Minimum of one at each floor level)

Exceptions:

1. Work involving exterior surfaces of the dwelling, windows, or a porch or deck.
2. Installation, alteration, or repair of plumbing or mechanical systems.

Single station carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed as complying with UL 2034 and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturers' installation instructions.