



Carbon Monoxide Safety

Carbon monoxide is produced when a carbon-containing compound, such as natural gas, propane, gasoline, or wood, is burned. This invisible, odorless, and tasteless combustion byproduct can lead to serious illness or even death.

With respect to natural gas, carbon monoxide can build up if an appliance, furnace, or water heater has a defective burner or is not vented correctly.

As for detecting carbon monoxide, watch for these warning signs:

1. Soot buildup on or near a fireplace, furnace chimney, or appliance vent.
2. A pilot light that keeps going out.
3. Discolored gas burners or an abnormal gas flame.
4. Excessive humidity, such as heavily frosted windows.
5. Fireplaces that smoke or won't draw.
6. Stale or stuffy air.
7. Mild exposure produces flu-like symptoms (slight headache, nausea, vomiting, and fatigue).
8. Medium exposure causes throbbing headache, drowsiness, confusion, rapid heart rate, and irregular breathing.
9. Extreme exposure results in convulsions, unconsciousness, heart and lung failure, and brain damage. These symptoms may result in death.

If you suspect a carbon monoxide related issue, leave the premises and contact the appropriate emergency number of the natural gas utility or call 911.