



1201 East 55th Street  
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## CARBON MONOXIDE: The Invisible Danger

**Natural gas appliances are typically very safe to use. But a malfunctioning appliance or improper venting can create carbon monoxide gas, which can be deadly. Carbon monoxide is produced when natural gas, propane or other fossil fuels fail to burn completely. Carbon monoxide, or CO, is a colorless, odorless gas.**

Working with local fire departments, Dominion Energy Ohio wants to raise the awareness of potential sources of carbon monoxide, which can help protect you and your family. Be sure your natural gas appliances—particularly your furnace and water heater—are

inspected annually by a licensed contractor to ensure that they are functioning properly, and repair any malfunctioning appliances immediately. Repair or replacement of gas appliances are the responsibility of the customer or property owner.

**Be safe—install a battery-powered carbon monoxide (CO) detector in the hallway of your home near sleeping areas. Replace the batteries every 6 months and the detector as recommended by the manufacturer. While a CO detector is no substitute for annual inspections of heating systems, the alarm can alert you to the presence of CO.**

Treat the alarm as a real emergency each time. If you or your family suspect the presence of carbon monoxide, call 911 and exit the building. Remember that emergency responders will need access to the building when they arrive.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include dizziness, headaches, queasy stomach and drowsiness. If anyone is suffering from carbon monoxide exposure, medical attention is necessary. Continued exposure can cause death.



## Potential Signs and Sources of Carbon Monoxide in the Home:

- |                                     |   |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| <b>1</b> Blocked chimney opening    | <b>5</b> Gas or wood-burning fireplace              | <b>8</b> Corroded, disconnected or missing water heater vent pipe | <b>12</b> Soot around an appliance  |
| <b>2</b> Moisture inside windows    | <b>6</b> Improperly installed range or cooktop vent | <b>9</b> Cracked heat exchanger (furnace)                         | <b>13</b> Operating a grill or portable generator in an enclosed area such as a garage. |
| <b>3</b> Portable space heater      | <b>7</b> Leaking or blocked chimney pipe or flue    | <b>10</b> Loose or missing furnace panel                          | <b>14</b> Using a range, oven or dryer for heating.                                     |
| <b>4</b> Blocked clothes dryer vent |   | <b>11</b> Foil lining the oven or range burners                   |   |