



**State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services**

**Jim Doyle, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary**

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Deer Hunters, Others Urged to Use Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Carbon Monoxide Alarms One of the Best Defenses Against CO Poisoning

State health officials urge everyone to guard against carbon monoxide poisoning as the weather turns colder and Wisconsin's deer hunters prepare for the woods.

“During deer hunting season, many people think about gun safety. However, they also need to be aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide,” said Dr. Seth Foldy, State Health Officer. “Carbon monoxide poisoning is more common during the cold weather months in Wisconsin as people turn to portable generators, heaters, and stoves to help stay warm. Poorly functioning or unvented furnaces or home appliances can create a carbon monoxide build up in your home, but can also poison hunters and sportsman in cabins, campers, tents, and hunting and fishing shacks.”

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas produced by burning fuels. Breathing carbon monoxide displaces the oxygen in the blood, making people sick. At high levels, carbon monoxide can kill a person in minutes. Symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, fatigue, dizziness, shortness of breath, nausea and mental confusion. High levels of exposure may lead to more serious health problems, including loss of consciousness and death.

One of the best defenses against carbon monoxide poisoning is a CO detector. CO detectors work like smoke alarms to alert you to dangerously high levels of carbon monoxide. Install CO detectors on every level of your home and near sleeping areas. Bring a battery powered portable CO detector with you any time you use a fuel-burning appliance away from home.

Any device that burns gasoline, kerosene, wood, propane, coal, oil or charcoal should only be used in well-ventilated settings. Foldy added that a carbon monoxide detector's alarm should never be ignored. “The alarm may save your life,” he said. “If it sounds, or if anyone indoors has symptoms, get everyone out immediately and call 911 from a different location.”

For more information about CO, contact your local health department or visit the Department's website at <http://dhs.wi.gov/eh/Air/fs/CO.htm>

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