



# PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY FROM CARBON MONOXIDE

*Simple steps can save a life!*

## PREVENT POISONING

- **Make sure you have working carbon monoxide detectors.** All homes in Wisconsin are required to have detectors on every level, including the basement, but not the attic or storage areas. Detectors can be purchased at most hardware stores for \$20-\$50. Replace the batteries twice a year; we recommend changing them when you change your clocks with Daylight Savings Time. Replace your detector after five years or according to manufacturer instructions.
- **Have your furnace or wood-burning stove inspected annually.** Hire a professional to make sure it works and vents properly outside the home.
- **Never run a gasoline or propane heater or a grill (gas or charcoal) inside your home.** Any heating system that burns fuel produces carbon monoxide. Use a battery-powered detector where you have fuel-burning devices but no electric outlets, such as in tents, ice shanties, tree stands, cabins, trailers, and boats with enclosed cabins. Never use a gas stove or oven to heat your home.
- **Never run a car in an enclosed space.** Even with a door or window open, carbon monoxide levels can still build up to an unsafe level.
- **Always run generators outside.** Never use a generator in the home or garage, or right next to windows, vents, or doors. Keep generators at least 20 feet from your home, camper, tent, etc., with exhaust hoses pointing away from people and structures.

## WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?

Carbon monoxide is a gas that can't be seen or smelled and is made when fuels—like gas, kerosene, propane or wood—are burned.

It's the most common cause of deadly poisonings.

## KNOW THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF POISONING

- Symptoms of overexposure to carbon monoxide include headaches, fatigue, dizziness, shortness of breath, nausea, and confusion.
- At high levels, carbon monoxide can cause death within minutes.

## TAKE ACTION

- Go to fresh air immediately if you see the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning or if your alarm sounds.
- Call 911, and stay in the fresh air until the building has been declared safe.

