



# CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

## Ideas for Taking Action

Wisconsin Environmental Public Health Tracking Program



### TAKING ACTION

We know it's a challenge to translate data into action. To help get you started, we created a short menu of potential strategies for addressing carbon monoxide poisoning. To help communities of all sizes and resource levels, we organized this guide by the scope of the strategy, from addressing knowledge, attitudes, and skills to addressing laws and policies.

#### INDIVIDUAL LEVEL | Knowledge, Attitudes, Skills

- Educate residents that state law requires a carbon monoxide detector on every floor in homes, duplexes, and apartments.
- Educate residents about the signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Promote resources that explain the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning in indoor ice rinks and motorbike arenas.
- Educate residents not to use portable generators indoors.
- Encourage residents to have their furnaces inspected annually.

#### INTERPERSONAL LEVEL | Family, Friends, Social Networks

- Train doctors to ask if there is a carbon monoxide detector in the home.
- Train parents of hockey players and figure skaters to identify and respond to the signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL LEVEL | Organizations, Schools, Workplaces

- Encourage enclosed recreational arenas (such as ice rinks and venues that host motorbike/truck events) to frequently monitor air quality and install carbon monoxide detectors.
- Encourage enclosed recreational arenas to have a policy in place to respond to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Give enclosed recreational arenas copies of *Resources for Enclosed Ice Arena Management*.
- Encourage enclosed recreational arenas to hang posters or flyers with the signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Encourage enclosed ice rinks to switch to electric ice resurfacers (e.g., Zamboni<sup>®</sup>).

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Find more strategies and explore carbon monoxide poisoning data at [dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht).

WISCONSIN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING PROGRAM  
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health

[dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht) | MAY 2017 | [dhstracking@wi.gov](mailto:dhstracking@wi.gov)  
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Each strategy contains links to more resources. View this document on the Resources section of our website to access the links.



**COMMUNITY LEVEL** | Design, Access, Connectedness, Spaces

- Partner with hardware stores to promote and/or discount carbon monoxide detectors.
- Send out press releases, social media posts, and public service announcements each fall that talk about carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Encourage property owners to make sure required carbon monoxide detectors are present and maintained in their properties.

**POLICY LEVEL** | National or Local Laws and Policies

Work with recreational arena owners and operators' organizational bodies to implement air quality best practices in Wisconsin arenas.



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