



PREVENTION AND SAFETY TIPS

To safeguard your family from the possible buildup of carbon monoxide in your home, you should consider the following precautions:

- Before each heating season, have your chimney, appliances and heating systems checked by a qualified heating and ventilation service contractor.
- Make sure appliance vents and exhaust ducts, such as those on water heaters, dryers and ranges, are not blocked, are in good condition, and are properly ventilating outdoors.
- Never operate a motor vehicle or other gas-powered engine in an enclosed space, such as a garage. Leaving the garage door open does not reduce the chance of exhaust fumes building up and leaking carbon monoxide into a building.
- Never operate a portable charcoal or propane grill indoors.
- When using an approved unvented gas space heater for supplementary heat, open a window an inch or more as stated in the gas space heater operating instruction.
- If you suspect a gas leak, vacate the building immediately and call Ameren Missouri at **1.800.552.7583**.



HOW TO CONTACT AMEREN MISSOURI

Customer Contact Center:

1.800.552.7583

To request a gas safety awareness presentation:

1.573.876.3024

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Missouri Department of Public Safety

dfs.dps.mo.gov

U.S. Fire Administration

usfa.fema.gov



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CARBON MONOXIDE

It's Enough to Take Your Breath Away!



CARBON MONOXIDE

Every year, carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning kills hundreds of Americans and puts thousands more in the hospital. Carbon monoxide is a tasteless, odorless gas created as a by-product of incomplete combustion. Poisoning and illness can occur when fossil fuels and other materials are burned without proper ventilation for complete combustion. Potential sources of CO include vehicles, gas appliances, chimneys, charcoal grills, gas-powered generators and portable gas-powered space heaters.

KNOW THE SYMPTOMS

Symptoms of illness caused by carbon monoxide exposure may initially be similar to the flu. As they progress, they may include the following:

- Burning eyes
- Headaches
- Nausea
- Confusion
- Fatigue
- Dizziness
- Shortness of breath
- Unconsciousness
- Increased episodes of angina in people with coronary disease

As the concentrations of carbon monoxide in the bloodstream increase, symptoms will progress from relatively mild to severe. If inhaled in large quantities for a prolonged period of time, carbon monoxide can cause unconsciousness, brain damage and even death.



CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTION

As a first line of defense, install carbon monoxide detectors within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping and test them monthly. When choosing a CO detector be sure that it has Underwriter Laboratories (UL) stamp of approval to ensure that the CO detector will consistently activate when exposed to CO at unsafe levels.

There are many visible signs that indicate the presence of carbon monoxide. Some of these are:

- Black soot on or around air registers, flues, burners or access openings to appliances.
- Condensation of moisture on the inside surface of windows. Be advised humidifiers and vaporizers can also cause condensation.
- Unexplained illness or death of indoor pets.
- Abnormal flame characteristics, such as a yellow gas flame instead of blue, flame rolling out of the front of an appliance or flame lifting off the burner.

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

First and foremost stay calm and follow these guidelines:

- **Dial 911 and vacate the premises**, if anyone in the household is feeling ill and you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning. Your local first responder(s) will evaluate the exposure to CO and coordinate medical treatment. Contact a qualified heating and ventilation service (HVAC) contractor to inspect your system.
- If no one in the household is feeling ill yet you suspect a CO problem, ventilate the home by opening the doors and windows, and call a qualified HVAC contractor to inspect your system.

GAS LEAK AWARENESS If you smell an odor of gas or hear a hissing or leaking sound, immediately leave the premises, taking all people and pets with you. **REPORT GAS LEAKS 24/7 BY CALLING AMEREN MISSOURI AT 1.800.552.7583.**