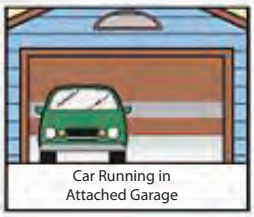
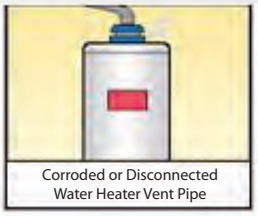
Carbon Monoxide

What is Carbon Monoxide?

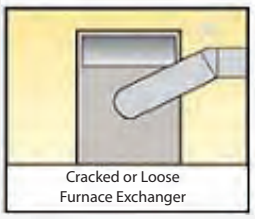
Carbon Monoxide is an odorless, colorless, and toxic gas. It is the number one cause of accidental poisoning in the US and can cause similar symptoms to the common cold or flu.

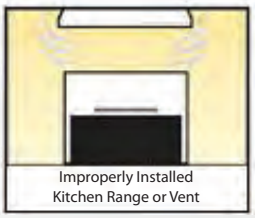

Car Running in Attached Garage

Clogged Chimney

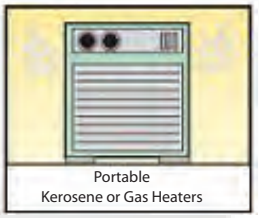

Corroded or Disconnected Water Heater Vent Pipe

Gas or Wood-Burning Fireplace


Cracked or Loose Furnace Exchanger


Improperly Installed Kitchen Range or Vent

Operating a Grill Indoors or in Garage


Portable Kerosene or Gas Heaters

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Install a CO detector on each level of your home and in or near each sleeping area.
- Keep detectors at least 20 feet away from fuel burning appliances and at least 10 feet away from humid locations; e.g. bathrooms and kitchens.
- If an alarm sounds, call a professional to check your fuel burning appliances.

Carbon Monoxide Detector Maintenance

- You can determine if a CO detector is working by using special alarm testing devices.
- These devices simulate CO using a small pellet in a package that releases anon-toxic gas when moistened.
- If the alarm is working properly, it should sound.
- Check with local hardware/supply stores or your local fire department about CO detectors.

For more information on Carbon Monoxide, visit the IDHS website: www.in.gov/dhs

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IDHS
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY