

## Quick Facts on CO

**WHAT IS IT:** A colourless odorless, tasteless gas.

**SIGNS:** Stuffy air, water vapor, back draft and soot from a fireplace.

**SYMPTOMS:** Headaches, weakness, nausea, vomiting and loss of muscle control. Can be confused with the flu.

**EFFECTS:** If inhaled, carbon monoxide takes away oxygen from the blood. Prolonged exposure can lead to unconsciousness, brain damage or death.

**CAUSES:** Blocked or dirty vents, flues, chimneys and furnaces, as well as improper ventilation while burning fireplaces or woodstoves.

**DEATHS:** Approximately 200 per year.

**PREVENTION:** Annual inspection and cleaning of:

- Furnaces
- chimneys
- fireplaces
- other equipment such as gas dryers

**Install at least one carbon monoxide detector in your home**

## Safety Tips to Protect Your Family

### Tips on how to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning

**HAVE** a qualified service technician check the furnace and other fuel-burning equipment for safety and efficiency.

**MAKE** sure a wood or coal-burning stove is properly installed and vented.

**DON'T** operate a gasoline-powered engine, kerosene stove or charcoal grill in a closed space.

**CLEAN** and inspect your chimneys regularly.

**BARBECUE** grills should never be operated indoors.

**CHECK** clothes dryer vents that open outside the house for lint.

**CHECK** forced air fans for proper ventilation.

**If you suspect carbon monoxide in your home, get out right away and call the fire department.**