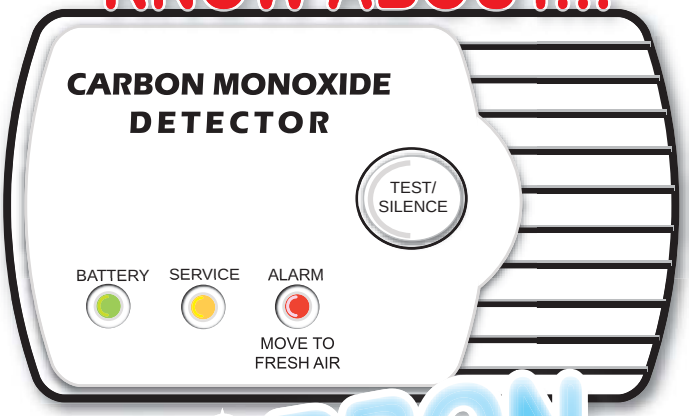
# WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT...




# CARBON MONOXIDE

## THE HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT WANTS YOU TO BE AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF CARBON MONOXIDE.

- Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that can kill you before you are even aware it is in your house.
- CO causes side effects such as headaches, nausea, dizziness, disorientation and fatigue that are often mistaken for the flu. These effects can vary greatly from person to person depending on age, overall health and length of exposure.
- According to statistics, CO kills hundreds and injures thousands of people each year.
- CO is produced during the incomplete combustion of fuels such as kerosene, natural gas, oil, gasoline, coal & even wood.
- The gas may originate from your furnace, fireplace, stove, hot water heater, barbeque grill or automobile.
- The danger increases more during the winter months as heaters are used more frequently and fresh air ventilation is minmized by closed windows.
- Warming up automobiles in an attached garage, even with the garage door open, can allow concentrated amounts of CO to enter your house through nearby windows or carport door.
- When inhaled, carbon monoxide is absorbed into the blood-stream 200 times as fast as oxygen.
- Purchase a Carbon Monoxide detector if you use gas or a fireplace for your heating. Have your furnace professionally inspected every year and check for CO emissions.
- Install a Carbon Monoxide detector in the hallway near every separate sleeping area of the home.
- When your CO alarm sounds, ventilate the house with fresh air by opening windows and doors.
- Check your CO detector by every month pressing the test button and replace the detector every 5 years.

A message from the Houston Fire Department www.houstonfire.org

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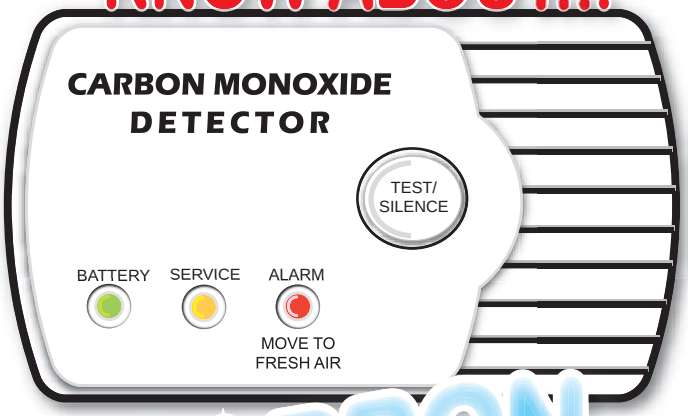


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