**CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING DANGERS - from the CODES Department**

**What is carbon monoxide? How can carbon monoxide poisoning be prevented?**

**Carbon Monoxide (CO) Dangers and Risks**

Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America. 65% of CO poisoning deaths are from heating systems. Early symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to the flu and are often misdiagnosed. Headaches, nausea, fatigue, and dizziness are all non-specific symptoms of CO poisoning.

**Tips for Prevention**

Install at least one battery powered CO alarm or AC powered unit with battery backup on each level of your home and near sleeping quarters. CO alarms do not last forever! The detecting components will lose their effectiveness after 5-7 years and may no longer detect carbon monoxide. Replace your CO alarms every 5-7 years to benefit from the most recent technology updates.

***What do you do if your carbon monoxide alarm goes off?***

If you are experiencing any of the symptoms mentioned previously follow these directions:

* Call 9-1-1 immediately
* Go to a hospital immediately
* DO NOT re-enter the home until emergency services has indicated it is safe to return.

If no one is showing signs or symptoms of poisoning follow these directions:

1. Open all windows to get air ventilation.

2. Turn off any appliances such as your gas-fired furnace or a running generator.

3. After the home has gotten ventilation, reset the carbon monoxide detectors.

4. If the detectors do not sound again, call a qualified technician to inspect and repair any problem.

5. Should the alarm sound a second time ( and no one is showing signs of CO poisoning, vent the home and call your local fire department. Emergency personnel will advise you when it is safe to return home.

**For more information follow this link:**[**www.kidde.com/home-safety/en/us/co-safety/carbon-monoxide-dangers/**](http://www.kidde.com/home-safety/en/us/co-safety/carbon-monoxide-dangers/)

From the Waterville Codes Department, William Brown Codes Officer, 1/19/18