

PURPOSE

To establish safe operating procedures for responses to reports of carbon monoxide detector incidents.

PROCEDURE

1. Dispatch
 - A. Upon receipt of a citizen call reporting a CO detector alarm, dispatch will attempt to determine if anyone at the location is exhibiting symptoms of CO poisoning.
 - B. If there are indications of CO poisoning, a Code-3 medical response will be initiated. If there is no indication of CO poisoning, a Code-1 fire response will be initiated.
2. On-scene Initial Actions
 - A. Determine if anyone is exhibiting any symptoms of CO poisoning. If so, immediately evacuate, ventilate and request EMS response.
 - B. Verify the alarm is coming from a CO detector and determine cause of alarm (e.g., true alarm, low battery, etc.).
 - C. It is not necessary to evacuate or ventilate the premises unless a level of 9 PPM or greater is detected, or there are indications of CO poisoning.
3. Carbon Monoxide Investigations
 - A. Zero the air monitor in fresh air and comply with all start up procedures as recommended by the manufacturer.
 - B. Initiate a survey of the premise to determine if there are any air monitor readings above 9 PPM. (Note: If readings are 35 PPM or greater, SCBA is required.)
 - C. If meter readings are under 9 PPM:
 - i. Recommend occupant(s) check or reset their CO detector.
 - ii. Inform occupants of results of your investigation.
 - iii. Provide occupants with copy of your investigation report.
 - iv. Inform occupants to call 9-1-1 if "reset" detector sounds again.
 - D. If meter readings are 9 PPM or greater:
 - i. Inform occupant(s) you have detected a potentially dangerous level of carbon monoxide and evacuate occupant(s).
 - ii. Attempt to determine the source of the reading, if possible, turn off source.
 - iii. Attempt to determine source of readings if not an appliance.

- iv. Ventilate premise wearing proper safety equipment (SCBA), if needed (35 PPM or greater).
- v. Once the premises have been reduced to a safe level of CO, premises may be occupied at the occupant(s)' discretion.
- vi. Provide occupant(s) with copy of your investigation report.
- vii. Inform occupant(s) to call 9-1-1 if "reset" detector sounds again.
- viii. Complete the CARBON MONOXIDE INVESTIGATION NOTICE OF FINDINGS report and send it to Fire Prevention.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- If patients are exhibiting symptoms, refer to the EMS Protocol, Poisoning and Overdose.
- Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, lighter-than-air gas that can be deadly. It is a by-product of a fuel burning process and can be produced from automobiles and appliances. Faulty and/or unusual conditions can increase the presence of carbon monoxide in a home or business.
- Carbon monoxide is FUEL and will burn in higher concentrations – 500 PPM and greater
- Carbon monoxide poisoning may be difficult to diagnose. Its symptoms are similar to the flu, which may include headache, nausea, fatigue, and dizzy spells.
- OSHA has established a maximum safe working level for carbon monoxide at 35 PPM (parts per million) over an 8-hour period in the general workplace. The United States EPA has established that residential levels should not exceed 9 PPM average over an 8-hour period.
- Northwest Natural Gas will respond to reports of leaks, odors or complaints of headaches, as requested. They will respond to fire department requests.