

# CARBON MONOXIDE & SPACE HEATER SAFETY



Every year, hundreds of people die from carbon monoxide poisoning and space heater-related fires. The Los Angeles County Fire Department has tips on how to keep you and your family safe from the dangers of carbon monoxide and space heaters.

## Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a silent killer. It is an odorless, tasteless gas that cannot be seen. CO poisoning can result from faulty furnaces or other heating appliances, such as portable generators, water heaters, clothes dryers, or cars left running in garages.



Some symptoms of CO poisoning include headaches, nausea and drowsiness. Being exposed to undetected high levels of CO can be fatal.

In California, it is the law that every home and multi-home dwelling have a working CO detector installed.

## How to Avoid CO Poisoning:

- Make sure all fuel-burning, vented equipment is vented to the outside to avoid CO poisoning.
- Keep the venting for exhaust clear and unblocked.
- If you need to warm up a vehicle, remove it from the garage once you turn it on, regardless if the garage doors are open.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated outdoor location, away from windows, doors and vent openings.

## If Your CO Alarm Sounds:

- Immediately move to a fresh air location. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for and safe.
- Call 9-1-1 or the Fire Department from a fresh air location. Remain there until emergency personnel arrive to help you.



## Space Heater

Space heaters are a widely used and inexpensive way to keep warm during the cold winter months. Each year, hundreds of fires are started by the improper use of space heaters.

## When Operating a Space Heater:

- Place the heater on a level, hard, nonflammable surface, such as a ceramic tile floor.
- Make sure the heater is at least three feet away from any flammable materials, such as bedding, drapes, and furniture.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Always turn off heaters when you leave the room.

## Remember:

- NEVER leave a space heater on when you go to sleep.
- DO NOT place a space heater anywhere near a sleeping person; they may toss and turn in the middle of the night and burn themselves.
- DO NOT use portable propane space heaters indoors or in any confined space unless they are specifically designed for indoor use.



## Replace Batteries Twice a Year

Check all smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors throughout your home and replace batteries every six months to ensure they are in working condition.



Discover more safety topics at:  
[fire.lacounty.gov](http://fire.lacounty.gov)



• LACoFD



• LACountyFD



LosAngelesCountyFD



• LACoFD