

CARBON MONOXIDE EMERGENCIES

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- Over 50% of CO poisoning cases are misdiagnosed as something else. **Your next CO emergency scene will likely be dispatched as something else. Be heads-up.**
- Has a very wide ignition range. It is big enough to warrant control of ignition sources.
- CO sources cycle on and off automatically. If the CO alarm has stopped sounding remember the problem may restart when the source turn-on again. Be vigilant.
- Colorless, odorless, tasteless, and non-irritating.
- **PRIOR TO CLEARING THE SCENE - ISSUE A COMPLETED CO NOTICE TO THE OCCUPANT.**

PROTOCOL:

1. **Respond Code 1.** Company officers are authorized to upgrade to Code 3 if additional information is available, such as reports of EMS patients requiring assistance.
2. Minimum PPE is turnouts with SCBA until CO is determined to be below 35 PPM.
3. Turn-on 4 gas detector to allow it to cycle-up while enroute.
4. Upon arrival **calibrate** your 4 gas detector to **CLEAN AIR**.
 - **Move away** from your fire engine and the suspect building to an area you are **certain does not contain CO**.
5. Check/question occupants for symptoms.
6. Sample at the entrance. **IF CO is found to be above 35 ppm anyone entering the structure shall be "on-air"**.
7. Continue to sample at various heights throughout the building.
8. Sample near the CO alarm if applicable. Sample in and around all items that use or cause combustion.
 - Stoves, BBQ's
 - Fireplaces
 - Furnaces, boilers
 - Hot water heaters
 - Gas dryers, refrigerators
 - Unvented appliances, and space heaters
 - Pool / Spa heaters.
 - Void spaces
 - Utility rooms
 - Vehicles
 - Chimneys
 - Attic / crawl spaces
9. If CO is found call for assistance from the gas company. They can assist with investigation and leak control even when non-gas related.

CARBON MONOXIDE EMERGENCIES

Findings and Actions:

0-9 PPM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform occupants that our detection equipment DID NOT find an elevated level of CO• Check detector• Have occupants re-notify 911 if situation returns
9-35 PPM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform occupants that a potentially dangerous level of CO has been detected.• Evacuate the building• Investigate and shut off ALL potential causes. Once shut down <u>we will never restart gas appliances.</u> See Incident Utilities protocol.• Ventilate the building. Use electric blowers if possible.• Once level is 9PPM or less occupant's re-entry is at their discretion. Inform them of the risks. Refer to the gas company/appliance service professionals.
35 PPM or Greater	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform occupants that a potentially lethal level of CO has been detected.• Evacuate the building• Investigate and shut off ALL potential causes. Once shut down <u>we will never restart gas appliances.</u> See Incident Utilities protocol.• Ventilate the building. Use electric blowers if possible. <p>Once level is 9PPM or less occupant's re-entry is at their discretion. Confidence that the CO source has been eliminated must be 100%. Inform them of the risks. Refer to the gas company/appliance service professionals.</p>