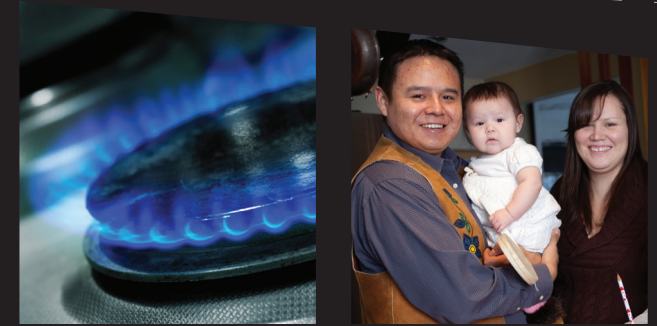


How can I protect my loved ones?

- Do not run a motor vehicle or other fueled equipment indoors.
- If you have an attached garage, ensure door entrance to home has a good seal.
- During and after snowstorms, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- Only run generators and other gas fired equipment in a well-ventilated area outdoors, away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Do not use gas or charcoal grills indoors.
- Have chimneys and fuel-burning heating equipment inspected and serviced annually, prior to heating season.
- When using the fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.

Known or suspected carbon monoxide poisoning

- Evacuate all occupants to a safe location. For example, your neighbors.
- Seek medical attention at your local health centre or hospital; explain you may have carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Contact your local fire department to assess your home.
- Do not re-enter area until it has been determined safe.



THE SILENT KILLER

Up the chimney

Ice can build up on the interior and exterior of chimneys in the winter months, causing a back up of flue gases containing carbon monoxide to accumulate in your home. Routine inspection and maintenance of your chimney can prevent and/or correct this. *The RCMP, NWT Fire Chief's Association and the Office of the Fire Marshal will be warning occupants of buildings if they see ice building up on their chimneys. If you see ice build-up on a home's chimney, please warn the occupants.*

If you have ice build-up on your chimney:

Have the ice cleared by a qualified person with the proper knowledge, tools and equipment to do it safely.

Have them ensure there is no blockage or obvious signs of warping inside the flue, limiting the exhaust.

Reducing the potential of ice build-up on your chimney:

Woodstoves

Inspect and clean your chimney regularly and more often if you burn frequently.

Ensure a good seal is in place around your woodstove door and only burn dry, well-seasoned wood.

Check the chimney before lighting to make sure there is no blockages, such as snow, ice, bird's nests, etc.

Furnaces / Fuel Burning Heaters and Lights

Have your heating and lighting systems maintained, inspected and serviced by a qualified technician. This will reduce the potential for a CO related accident and save you money.

All residents using wood/oil/propane/natural gas appliances for heating or lighting need protection. These homes, and those with an attached garage or shop, need to have properly functioning carbon monoxide alarms and smoke detectors.

It's QUIET.
It's INVISIBLE.
It has NO CONSCIENCE.

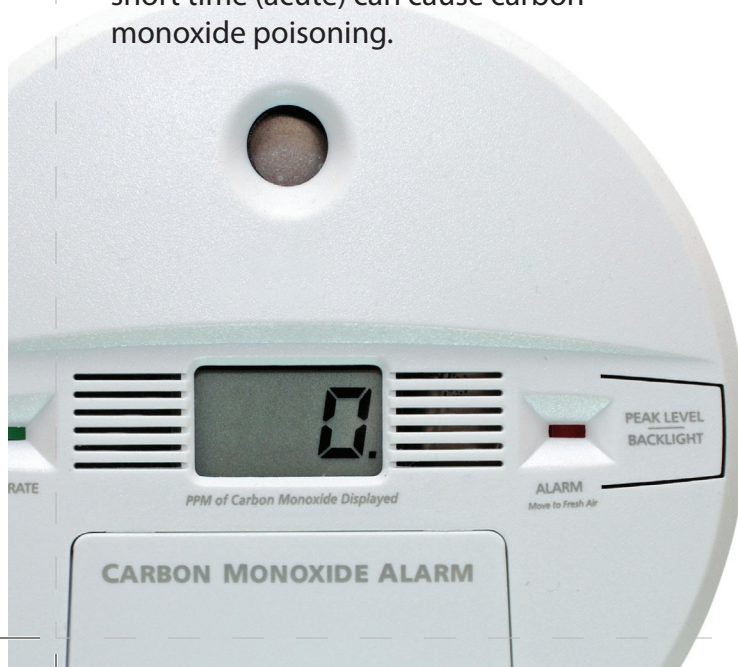
And it could be lurking in your home. It is **Carbon Monoxide**, and the danger it poses is very real. There are many potential sources for carbon monoxide in NWT homes, however with awareness and education, you can keep yourself and your loved ones safe from its deadly effects.

CARBON MONOXIDE KILLS...

Knowing the enemy

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a gas that is created by the incomplete burning of fuels. These fuels include gasoline, wood, natural gas, propane & oil. All are common and used daily in NWT homes.

You cannot see, smell, or taste carbon monoxide. Long periods of exposure to a small amount of CO (accumulative) or exposure to a large amount of CO in a short time (acute) can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.



Symptoms

Symptoms of poisoning resemble flu symptoms, without the fever. They include:

- Dizziness
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Nausea
- Irregular Breathing

If you experience any of these symptoms, go outside and get fresh air. If the symptoms disappear, but reappear when you go back inside, you may have carbon monoxide poisoning.

Detection

Protecting yourself from carbon monoxide poisoning is easy. Carbon monoxide alarms are available at most hardware stores and cost pennies a day to operate. Combination carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are now also available, providing dual protection.

Sound the alarm

Install carbon monoxide alarms in a central location(s) close to sleeping areas, and on every level of the home. Follow the manufacturer's installation/replacement and testing instructions and keep them in a handy place.

If the alarm sounds:

- Immediately go outside to a fresh air location.
- Account for everyone in the home.
- Call for help and stay outside until emergency personnel arrive.
- Do not go back inside until emergency personnel have confirmed it's safe.

Potential sources

- Gas/Propane hot water heaters
- Gas/Propane and wood fireplaces
- Motor vehicles
- Gasoline fired equipment (chainsaws, generators, etc.)
- Wood pellet stoves

Understanding what causes CO, properly maintaining appliances and heating systems, and regularly cleaning chimneys and vents is the best way to keep your home safe.



Knowledge is power

Carbon monoxide is a potential hazard to all NWT residents who use fuel burning heating appliances and systems. However, understanding the risks and following the suggestions in this brochure will help keep you and your loved ones safe, and give you peace of mind.

For additional information on carbon monoxide or protecting yourself from fire, please contact your local fire department or the Office of the Fire Marshal in your region at the following numbers:

North Slave region: 1-867-920-8081

South Slave region: 1-867-872-6535

Inuvik region: 1-867-777-7297

Sahtu region: 1-867-587-7115

Deh Cho region: 1-867-695-7230



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BE READY.