



Manitowoc County Health Department

1028 S. 9th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220

Phone: 920.683.4155 Fax: 920.683.4156

Email: healthdepartment@manitowoccountywi.gov

For Immediate Release

Date: 11/01/2024

Contact Person: Korina Aghmar or Lexi Otis

Manitowoc County Health Department Supports Carbon Monoxide Awareness Month

November is Carbon Monoxide (CO) Awareness Month and the Manitowoc County Health Department (MCHD) is highlighting information on carbon monoxide to help increase awareness in the community. As the weather starts to get colder, many people turn to alternative heating sources increasing the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas created when fuels such as gas, kerosene, propane, or wood are burned. CO cannot be seen, smelled, or heard, but can cause serious illness and loss of consciousness. When inhaled, the CO reduces the amount of oxygen in the blood. This causes a lack of oxygen to the heart, brain, and other vital organs. Some symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include nausea, headaches, dizziness, weakness, chest pain, and vomiting.

Follow these tips to keep yourself and others safe from carbon monoxide poisoning.

- **Don't** leave running vehicles in an attached garage, even with the garage door open.
- **Don't** use gas, diesel, or propane-powered equipment, especially portable generators, in an enclosed space such as a home, garage, shed, camper, tent, boat, or cabin.
- **Don't** use a stove, oven, or clothes dryer to heat a room or home.
- **Do** install a CO alarm on each level of a home and near each sleeping area.
- **Do** test CO alarms every month and change batteries every year.
- **Do** have fuel burning equipment, like a furnace, inspected annually by a qualified technician to ensure there is no damage or malfunctions causing CO release.
- **Do** keep vents and chimneys clear of debris and other blockages
- **Do** talk about what to do if a CO alarm goes off with others in the household.

If you think carbon monoxide is present or your carbon monoxide detector sounds, leave the area to get fresh air, immediately call 911, and do not go back inside until the area has been declared safe. Pay attention to any symptoms you may be experiencing and seek medical help if needed.

For more information on carbon monoxide visit [WI DHS Air: Carbon Monoxide](#).