



US Army Reserve Safety Awareness



Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poison After Disaster



FACTS:

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death if inhaled.

CO is found in fumes produced any time you burn fuel in cars or trucks, small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, gas ranges, or furnaces. CO can build up indoors and poison people and animals who breathe it.

When power outages occur during natural disasters and other emergencies, the use of alternative sources of fuel or electricity for heating or cooking can cause CO to build up in a home, garage, or camper and to poison the people and animals inside.

PREVENT CO POISON:

- Install a battery-operated or battery back-up CO detector in your home and check or replace the battery at least twice a year. This detector can tell you the highest level of CO concentration in addition to alarming.
- Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors.
- Make sure your gas appliances are vented properly. Horizontal vent pipes for appliances, such as a water heater, should go up slightly as they go toward outdoors.
- Never use a gas range or oven for heating.
- Never burn charcoal indoors.
- Do not use gas camp stove indoors.
- Never use a portable gas camp stove indoors.
- Never use a generator inside your home, basement, or garage. Follow the manufacture's recommendations.