

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR RESPONSE

General Statement:

The Fire Department is responsible only for investigating a reported carbon monoxide problem or a detector sounding. We are not there to repair the problem. We are to render emergency medical care (if applicable), to advise the occupant(s) of our findings, to issue a Notice of Findings Form and to assist them in exiting the structure (if necessary).

Dispatchers:

The dispatchers should determine whether anyone is symptomatic or feeling ill. Typical symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include flu-like symptoms, headaches, dizziness, light-headedness, nausea, convulsions, and unconsciousness.

If anyone is symptomatic, send an ambulance, Engine Company. If alarm only is sounding, dispatch an engine company.

Engine Company, Ambulance:

A primary first concern is the safety of our Fire District personnel. If there is any reason to suspect the presence of CO in a building (symptomatic victims/or the District's CO detector detects CO above 30 PPM at the entry point), no entry is to be made by personnel without fully donned and operating SCBA's. Additional resources are to be called to perform search and/or rescue operation if needed.

The first priority is to determine if there are any illnesses related to this incident. Once medical aid is provided to victims, the engine company shall follow these guidelines:

1. The department's PPE & SCBA S.O.G's should be followed.
2. Monitoring device should be zeroed to manufacturer's specs.
3. First reading should be outside the structure (and recorded).
4. Second reading taken just inside the structure (and recorded).
5. Readings should be taken and recorded in all rooms.
6. If able to locate CO producing item, the owner/occupant is to be informed so that the problem can be corrected.
7. If problem exists, but you are unable to locate the source, contact the Gas Company for assistance.
8. Inform occupants of findings as soon as possible and complete the Notice of Findings Form.

Monitoring Equipment:

All devices should be maintained per manufacturer's specs. Meters should be included on all daily equipment check sheets. All personnel should receive periodic training on the use and care of the department's devices. It is also recommended that all monitors be calibrated by a certified company at least quarterly or as per manufacturer's specifications.