Carbon Monoxide Messaging & the Ecosystem

National Carbon Monoxide Awareness Association Conference

July 30, 2024 | Kelly Ransdell | Director, Public Education

IT'S A BIG WORLD. LET'S PROTECT IT TOGETHER.™

WHAT IS THE FIRE & LIFE SAFETY ECOSYSTEM?

The Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem has 8 components; each plays a critical role in protecting people and property.

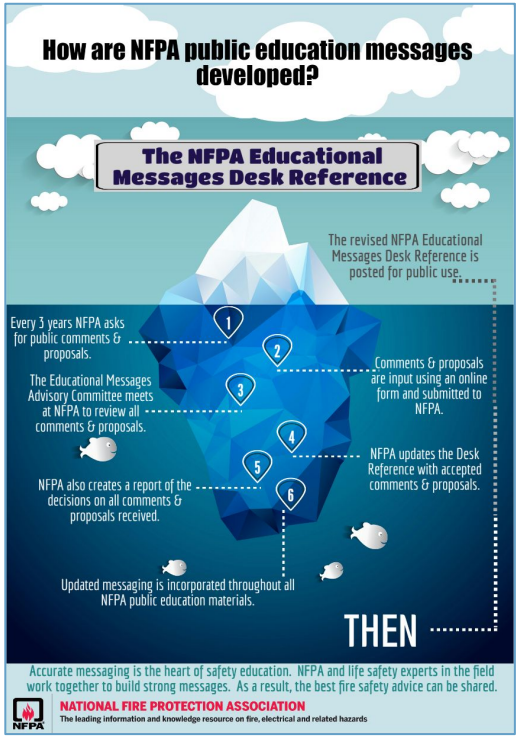
YOUR ROLE IN THE FIRE & LIFE SAFETY ECOSYSTEM

- Safety is everyone's responsibility. Your role can and will impact safety.

- Do you know your role?

- What part do you play in the Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem?

Educational Messaging



GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY

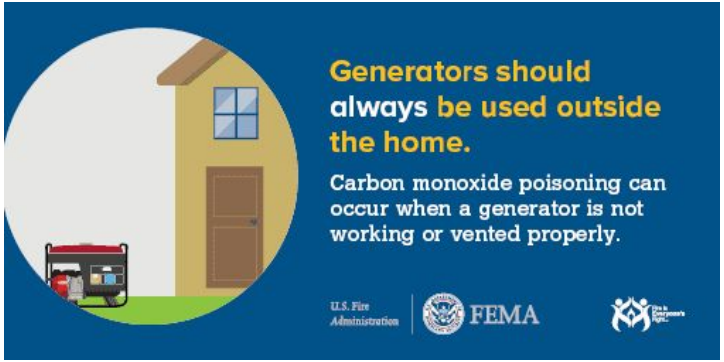
What is it?

Maintaining an effective policy and regulatory environment supporting fire, electrical, building and life safety.

Why is it important?

Recent polling shows people feel the government should be held accountable for ensuring safety requirements are up-to-date for their constituents. They assume it is currently happening, but in many cases, we know it doesn't take place.

Social Media Cards



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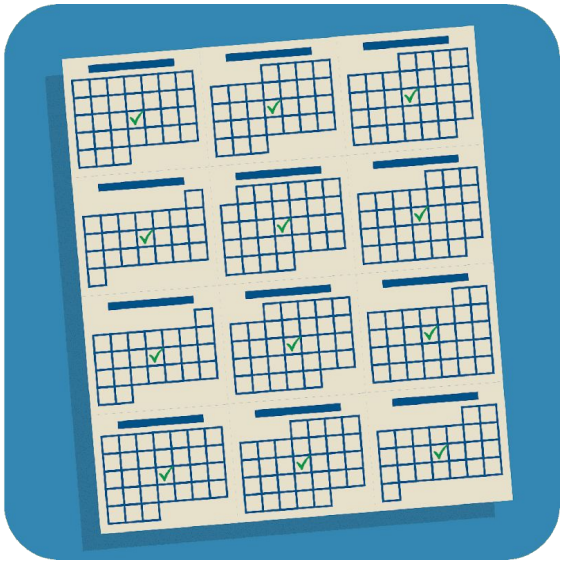
Pictographs



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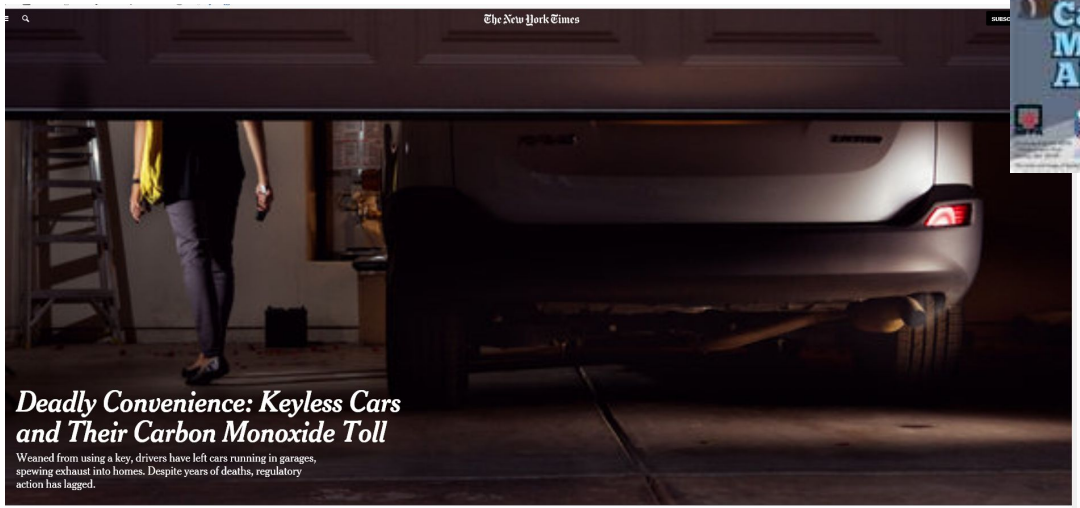
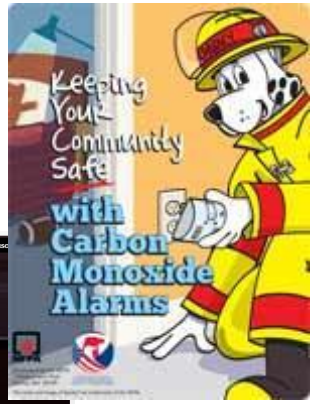
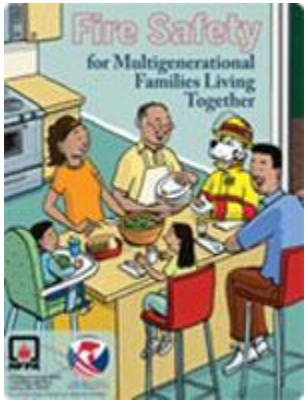
Partnerships & Outreach







CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
UNITED STATES

U.S. Fire Administration
Celebrating 50 years of working for a fire-safe America
50 YEARS 1974-2024

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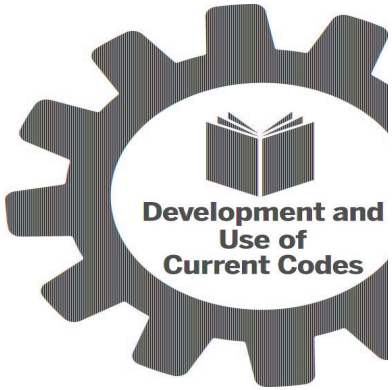


DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF CURRENT CODES

What is it?

Using the latest codes and standards developed by experts from across the world to establish minimum levels of safety to protect people and property.

Why is it important?

As technology changes, safety advocates are constantly assessing the risks we face in our homes, workplaces, and other buildings, as well as behaviors and actions that can create new hazards. Codes and standards are updated to reflect this changing world.

Codes & Standards

NFPA 720

Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide(CO) Detection and Warning Equipment

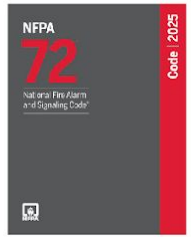
Status: Withdrawn ⓘ Notify Me About Document Updates ›

NFPA 720 was withdrawn at the Annual 2018 revision cycle. NFPA 720 requirements have been incorporated into NFPA 72. The Council voted to approve the withdrawal of NFPA 720 on August 14, 2018.

NFPA 720 contains requirements for carbon monoxide (CO) detection and warning equipment intended to protect lives by warning occupants of the presence of CO in sufficient time to allow occupants to escape or take other appropriate action.

Current Edition: 2015

Purchase Options Ask a Technical Question



NFPA 72

National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code®

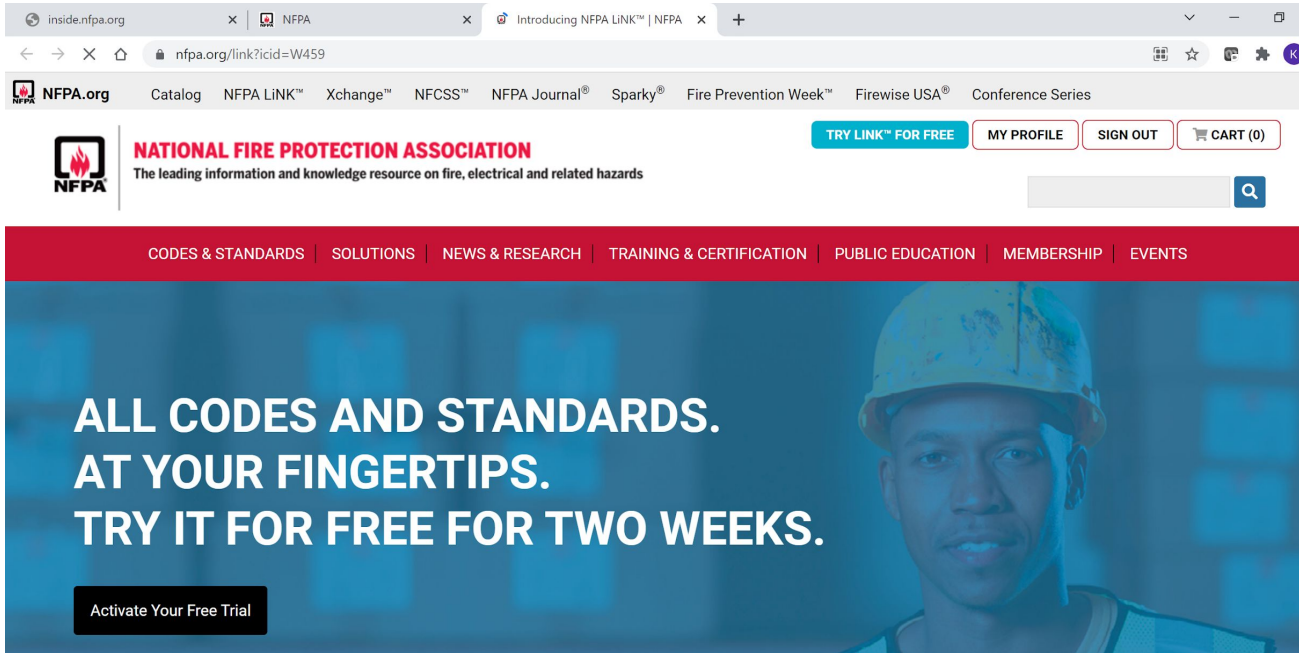
Status: Active ⓘ Notify Me About Document Updates ›

NFPA 72 provides the latest safety provisions to meet society's changing fire detection, signaling, and emergency communications demands. In addition to the core focus on fire alarm systems, the Code includes requirements for mass notification systems used for weather emergencies; terrorist events; biological, chemical, and nuclear emergencies; and other threats.

Current Edition: 2022

Purchase Options Available in NFPA LINK®

Ask a Technical Question



NFPA LiNK™

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REFERENCED STANDARDS

What is it?

Applying all standards that are referenced within the primary fire, life safety, building, and electrical codes and standards.

Why is it important?

Referenced standards provide critical guidance to designers, installers, facility operators, and enforcers. They are part of the code and must be used to ensure a minimum level of safety for all.

INVESTMENT IN SAFETY

What is it?

Investing in safety should always be everyone's high priority. We all must work together if we want to diminish losses from fire and related hazards.

Why is it important?

If we don't take a vested interest in the safety of the public, and if we make decisions based solely on financial gains, tragedies will ultimately occur.

Chapter 5

NEW!

5.2 Peer-to-peer Hospitality

- ❑ Smoke alarms
- ❑ Carbon Monoxide
- ❑ Cooking
- ❑ Extinguishers
- ❑ Floor plan
- ❑ Address
- ❑ Two ways out
- ❑ Meeting place
- ❑ Smoking
- ❑ Pathways
- ❑ Stovetop

Fire Safety at Your Home Away from Home

Peer-to-peer hospitality services, such as Airbnb, Vacation Rentals by Owner and other types of vacation rentals are not regulated in the same way as hotels. Requirements vary widely across jurisdictions. Act as your own safety advocate and know before you go. Be sure the following safety measures are addressed.

SAFETY TIPS

- ✔ Working smoke alarms are in every sleeping room. They are outside each separate sleeping area. They are on every level of the home.
- ✔ Working smoke alarms are interconnected, if possible. When one alarm sounds, they all sound.
- ✔ Portable fire extinguishers are in the home and are easy to reach.
- ✔ Working carbon monoxide alarms are outside each separate sleeping area. They are on every level of the home and in other locations as required by laws, codes, or standards.
- ✔ The owner has posted a floor plan. It notes all escape routes and exits and provides emergency contact information.
- ✔ Everyone knows the address of the home.
- ✔ Everyone staying in the home has identified two ways out of every room and how to escape in an emergency.
- ✔ All doors and windows that lead outside are able to be opened.
- ✔ An outside meeting place has been chosen. It is a safe distance away from the home.
- ✔ Everyone knows how to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from a cell phone from outside.
- ✔ If smoking is allowed, a smoking area has been designated and is well away from the structure. Deep, sturdy ashtrays have been provided.
- ✔ All pathways are free and clear of tripping hazards.
- ✔ Electrical outlets are free from multiple cords and adaptors.
- ✔ The stovetop is clear. Anything that can catch fire is not near the stovetop, such as curtains and towels.

WINDOW AND DOOR ALERT!

Be on the lookout for rooms with tiny windows. These are too small to serve as a means of escape.

Security bars on doors and windows can trap people in a fire. Make sure any security bars have quick-release devices. Tools, keys, or special efforts should not be needed to open them.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Peer-to-peer hospitality services are not regulated in the same way as hotels. Requirements vary widely across jurisdictions. Do your homework before making a reservation. Check online to see your travel destination's regulations for rental properties. Ask your host if the property meets the regulations. Discuss other safety concerns you may have.

Check the forecast in case of storms that could cause power outages; assure the property has equipment (batteries, lanterns, etc.) in the event of a power outage.

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo

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SKILLED WORKFORCE

What is it?

Providing opportunities for professionals to apply the skills they have, offer training when they need it, and reward those who recommit to fire prevention, protection, and education.

Why is it important?

Promoting the development of and utilizing skilled professionals ensures we are applying correctly the most current codes and standards to our work and in return, we reduce risk of injuries, loss, and death for workers and the public.

Chapter 10 Heating

NEW!

10.3 Fuel-burning space heaters

NEW! **10.3.5** Newer models of unvented gas-fired space heaters have an oxygen depletion sensor that detects a reduced level of oxygen in the area where the heater is operating. They still produce carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. It is recommended to only use this type of heater for emergency heat and to choose a vented gas heater, vented wood stove, or electric heater for prolonged amounts of time.

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Pictographs

CODE COMPLIANCE

What is it?

Supporting effective code enforcement. Whether a house or a new office building, the places people live and work are only as safe as the code compliance in place before, during, and after construction.

Why is it important?

It’s a fact that enacting and enforcing fire, electrical, building and life safety codes and standards, and ensuring on-going inspection, testing, and maintenance of facilities and safety systems, reduce deaths, injuries, and losses resulting from building fires.

Chapter 5

NEW!

5.1 Hotels and Motels

- ❑ Smoke / CO alarms
- ❑ Sprinklers
- ❑ Fire alarm sounds
- ❑ Escape plan
- ❑ Count the doors
- ❑ Room key handy
- ❑ Use the stairs
- ❑ Go low under smoke
- ❑ Bring a flashlight
- ❑ Leave if alarm sounds
- ❑ Return to room if escape routes are blocked

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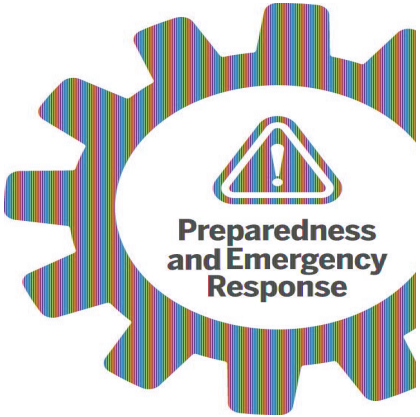


PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

What is it?

Investing in, prioritizing, and investing money in effective preparedness and response capabilities and resources for before, during, and after an emergency.

Why is it important?

When they put their lives on the line, first responders should feel secure knowing they are prepared to protect their communities, and that their communities are working to help prevent and prepare for emergency situations.

Chapter 3 Carbon Monoxide

3.7 Portable Generators

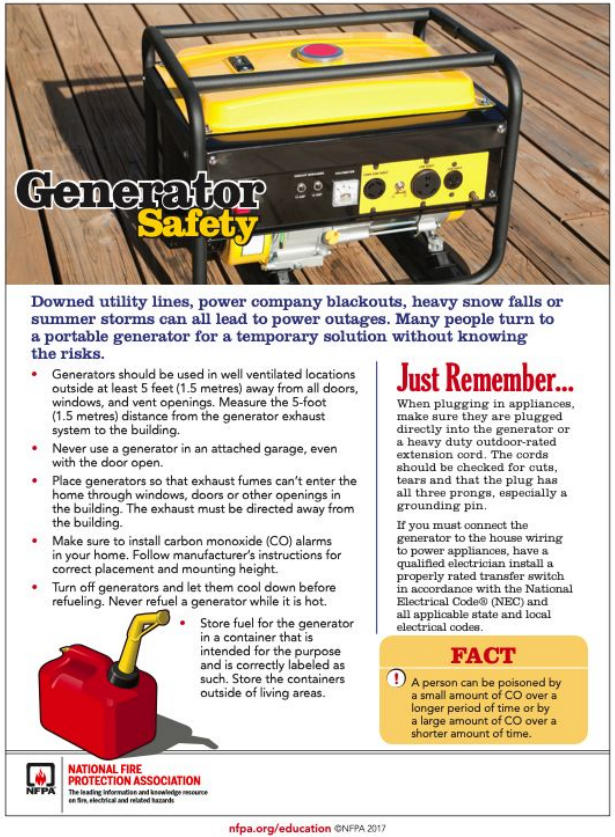
3.7 Portable Generators

NEW! **3.7.1** Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas at least 20 feet (7 metres) from all doors, windows, and vent openings. Measure the 20-foot (7-metre) distance from the generator to the building.

NEW! **3.7.5** If you are buying or renting a portable generator, choose one that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

NEW! **3.7.6** Do not stand or sit downwind of generator exhaust. If you can smell exhaust, you are inhaling it. Exhaust is toxic and deadly.

NEW!



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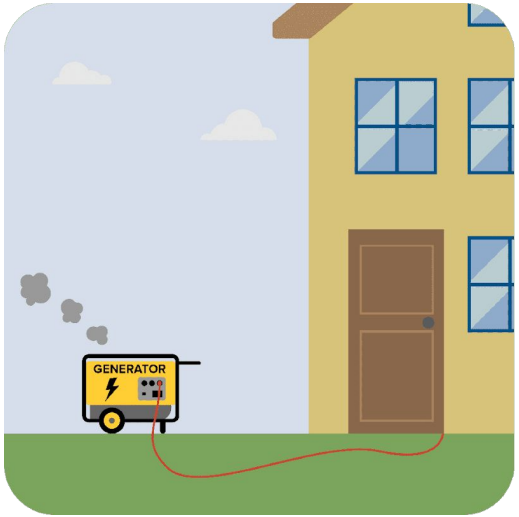
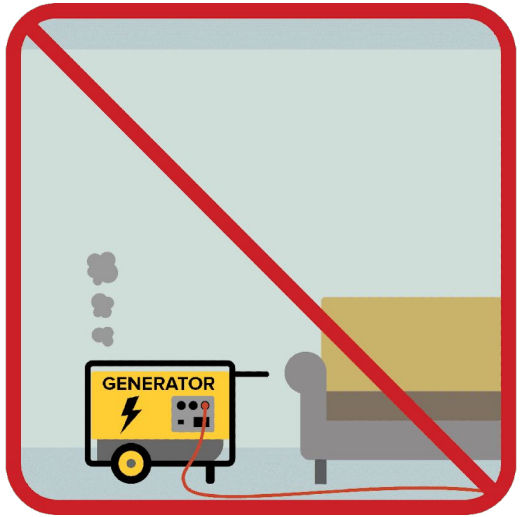
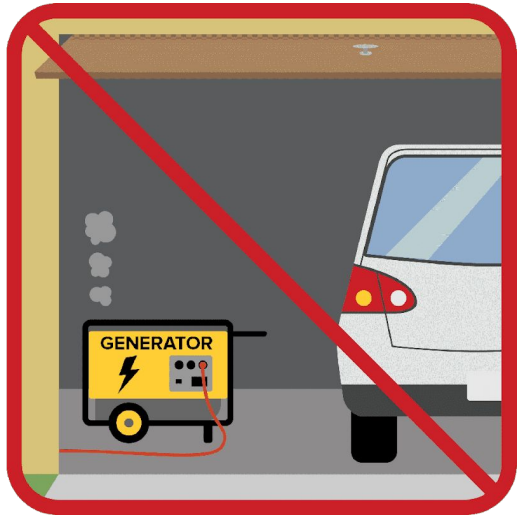
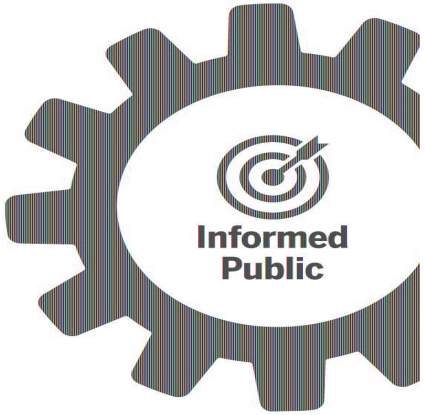








INFORMED PUBLIC

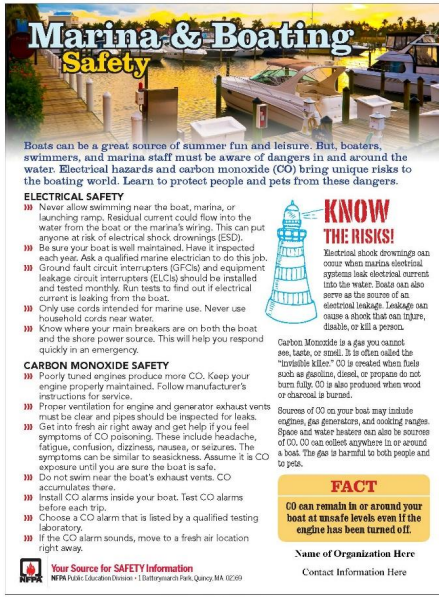
What is it?

Raising awareness, providing resources, and educating the public about the dangers posed by fire, electrical, and related hazards.

Why is it important?

When given tips and action steps to help address hazards, the public will likely make better, more informed decisions and take action to protect their home and personal safety.

Safety Tip Sheets



Marina & Boating Safety

Boats can be a great source of summer fun and leisure. But, boaters, swimmers, and marina staff must be aware of dangers in and around the water. Electrical hazards and carbon monoxide (CO) bring unique risks to the boating world. Learn to protect people and pets from these dangers.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Never allow swimming near the boat, marina, or launching ramp. Residual current could flow into the water from the boat or the marina's wiring. This can put anyone at risk of electrical shock drownings (ESD).
- Be sure your boat is well maintained. Have it inspected each year. Ask a qualified marine electrician to do this job.
- Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and equipment leakage circuit interrupters (ELCIs) should be installed and tested monthly. Run tests to find out if electrical current is leaking from the boat.
- Only use cords intended for marine use. Never use household cords near water.
- Know where your main breakers are on both the boat and the shore power source. This will help you respond quickly in an emergency.

KNOW THE RISKS!

Electrical shock drownings can occur when marina electrical systems leak electrical current into the water. Boats can also serve as the source of an electrical leakage. Leakage can cause a shock that can injure, disable, or kill a person.

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

- Poorly tuned engines produce more CO. Keep your engine properly maintained. Follow manufacturer's instructions for service.
- Proper ventilation for engine and generator exhaust vents must be clear and pipes should be inspected for leaks.
- Get into fresh air right away and get help if you feel symptoms of CO poisoning. These include headache, fatigue, confusion, dizziness, nausea, or seizures. The symptoms can be similar to seasickness. Assume it is CO exposure until you are sure the boat is safe.
- Do not swim near the boat's exhaust vents. CO accumulates there.
- Install CO alarms inside your boat. Test CO alarms before each trip.
- Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- If the CO alarm sounds, move to a fresh air location right away.

Carbon Monoxide is a gas you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is often called the "invisible killer." CO is created when fuels such as gasoline, diesel, or propane do not burn fully. CO is also produced when wood or charcoal is burned.

Sources of CO on your boat may include engines, gas generators, and cooking ranges. Space and water heaters can also be sources of CO. CO can collect anywhere in or around a boat. The gas is harmful to both people and to pets.

FACT

CO can remain in or around your boat at unsafe levels even if the engine has been turned off.

Name of Organization Here
Contact Information Here

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Portable Fireplace Safety

There is nothing like sitting by an open fire on a cold night. Indoor and outdoor portable ethanol burning fireplaces have become more popular in recent years. While these products provide ambiance and a little warmth, keep in mind the fuel, device and open flame can be dangerous.

Fireplace Safety

- A portable ethanol burning fireplace, and the fuel, should only be used by adults.
- Clean up any fuel spillage and be sure all liquid has evaporated before lighting the fireplace.
- Light the fireplace using a utility lighter or long match.
- An adult should always be present when a portable fireplace is burning.
- Place the fireplace on a sturdy surface away from table edges.
- It's a good idea to crack a window open for a fresh supply of air.
- Never try to move a lit fireplace or one that is still hot.
- Don't pour ethanol fuel in a device that is lit or not completely cool. It may result in a fire or injury.
- Allow the device to cool down for at least 15 minutes before refueling.
- Extinguish the flame when you leave the room, home or go to sleep.

General Fire Safety

- Keep anything that can burn, children and pets at least 3 feet from the fireplace.
- Store lighters and matches out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.

Ethanol Fuel Smarts

Store ethanol fuel in a closed container, away from the fireplace and out of the reach of children.

It may not be easy to see the ethanol fuel flame. Always close the lid or use a snuffer to be sure the flame is extinguished before refueling into a cooled fireplace.

Use only fuel made specifically for the fireplace.

FACT

Ethanol is a plant-based product that does not release new carbon monoxide into the air.

Name of Organization Goes Here
Contact Information Goes Here

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Clothes Dryer Safety

Doing laundry is most likely part of your every day routine. But did you know how important taking care of your clothes dryer is to the safety of your home? With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent a clothes dryer fire.

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.

AND DON'T FORGET...

Dryers should be properly **grounded**.

Check the **outdoor vent** flap to make sure it is not covered by snow.

Keep the area around your dryer **clear** of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, etc.

Clothes that have come in contact with **flammable substances**, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.

FACT

The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.

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Grade Level: Preschool, Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5

Lesson Plans

Mastering the 10-Minute Mini-Lesson

SAMPLE LESSON PLAN

CO ALARMS IN THE HOME

Educational Messages to Review:

- 3.1 Dangers of Carbon Monoxide
- 3.2 Installation
- 3.3 Testing & Replacement
- 3.8 If Your Carbon Monoxide Alarm Sounds

Topic: Carbon Monoxide Alarms in the Home
Audience: Adult Attendees of a City Council Meeting
Lesson Objective: By the end of the mini-lesson, participants will be able to describe at least 3 actions to ensure carbon monoxide alarms can serve as life-saving warning devices.

Step 1: Introduction (3 Minutes)

- Greet the participants and let them know you appreciate the invitation to speak for 10 minutes.
- Introduce yourself and share your connection to the community.
- HOOK: Play the sound clip of the singing canary.
  - Ask audience members to identify the sound.
  - Share a brief bit of history about the role canaries once held in coal mines:

    Poor ventilation is a problem in coal mines. Miners once used canaries to test the air quality in the mines. Canaries are very sensitive to the dangerous gases sometimes found in the mines. The canaries would chirp and sing all day long. But, if the levels of poisonous gases got too high, the canaries would have trouble breathing, and maybe even die. When the canaries stopped singing, miners would know that the gas levels were unsafe. They would leave the mine quickly to avoid suffocation or being caught in an explosion.
  - Some miners relied on canaries as early warning devices into the 1980's.
  - Modern technology has provided miners with new tools to detect the poisonous gases in mines.
  - Modern technology has also provided us with a tool to detect carbon monoxide that could be in our homes.

Step 2: Body of the Presentation (5 minutes)

- Inform the group about the topic of the mini-lesson: The importance of having working carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in the home.
- Share the following points with the participants:
  - Carbon Monoxide is not only found in coal mines. It is a gas that can come from heating and cooking devices in the home. Carbon monoxide is poisonous. It can make a person feel sick and can be deadly.
  - Carbon Monoxide is sometimes called "The Invisible Killer."
    - ASK: Why do you think CO has this morbid nickname? *CO is odorless and colorless. People are usually not aware of its presence and can get sick or die from breathing the poisonous gas.*
    - Since we cannot see, smell, or taste CO, we need to rely on another early warning system — like a canary in the coal mine.
  - Carbon Monoxide alarms act as canaries in the coal mine. These alarms detect this poisonous gas and provide early warning.

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— Mastering the 10-Minute Mini-Lesson: **CO Alarms in the Home** —

- Inform participants about steps to take to ensure CO alarms are protecting people in the home:
  - Have working CO alarms in the home.
  - Install CO alarms outside sleeping areas and on every level of the home.
  - Follow the instructions on the package for proper installation and maintenance.
  - Test the CO alarms monthly.
  - Know the sounds the CO alarm makes. The alarm will sound if CO is detected. If the battery is low, the alarm will chirp. Replace the battery right away. If the alarm still sounds, call the fire department.
    - Press the test button on a CO alarm to demonstrate the sound.
    - ASK: Can CO alarms substitute for smoke alarms? *NO! You need both in the home. Know the difference between the sound of the smoke alarms and the sound of CO alarms.*
- ASK: What should you do if CO is detected?
  - *Immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors.*
  - *Make sure everyone in the home gets to fresh air.*
  - *Call the fire department from a fresh air location.*
  - *Stay there until help arrives.*

Step 3: Conclusion (2 minutes)

- Remind participants of the importance of having working Carbon Monoxide alarms in the home
- Ask a few review questions:
  - How is a CO alarm like a canary in the coal mine? (*early warning, can reduce injury & death*)
  - What actions do you need to take to keep CO alarms working properly?
  - What actions should be taken if CO is detected in the home?
- Remind the audience that simple steps will help increase safety in the home.
- Share your contact information and encourage participants to contact you if they have questions or concerns about other home safety issues.
- Thank everyone for their time and for inviting you to speak.

The **NFPA Tip Sheet on Carbon Monoxide Safety** is a great take-away for participants to review at home.

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Preventing CO Poisoning Lesson Plan

Mastering the 10-Minute Mini-Lesson

SAMPLE LESSON PLAN

Educational Messages to Review:
- 3.4 Inside the Home
- 3.5 The Garage
- 3.6 Appliances
- 3.7 Portable Generators

Topic: Preventing CO (Carbon Monoxide) Poisoning
Audience: Parent PTO meeting
Lesson Objective: By the end of the mini-lesson, audience members will be able to identify at least 3 actions to take to help prevent CO poisoning.

Step 1: Introduction (2 Minutes)

- Greet the audience. Let them know you appreciate the invitation to speak for 10 minutes.
- Introduce yourself. Share your connection to the community.
- HOOK — ASK: Which of these kills more people in the U.S. each year?.
  a) Shark attacks
  b) Lightning strikes
  c) CO poisoning
  The answer is: C! CO poisoning

a) shark attacks (about 1 each year in the US) Source: Oceana

b) lightning strikes (about 32 each year in the US) Source: National Weather Service, NOAA

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that more than 400 people die each year, in the US, from unintentional CO poisoning from different products and motor vehicles.

CO is poisonous gas known as the invisible killer. You can't see it or smell it, but it can hurt people who breathe it. CO poisoning can happen fast or over a long period of time. It can lead to death.

Step 2: Body of the Presentation (7 minutes)

- Inform the group the topic of the mini-lesson: Ways to prevent CO poisoning in and around the home.

  CO can come from many things in and around your home.

  ASK: What are some things around your home that could produce CO?
  – Faulty fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, ranges, water heaters and room heaters
  – Cars
  – Engine-powered tools like generators
  – Burning charcoal in fireplaces or in barbeque grills inside
- Inform the group about steps they can take to help prevent CO poisoning:
  – Have heating equipment and chimneys checked by a professional each year before cold weather starts. Make sure the system is working properly. The inspector should check for proper exhaust ventilation through chimneys and flues.
  – Open the damper when using a fireplace for proper ventilation.
  – Never use your oven or stove to heat your home.

  ASK: What are some things that could block your dryer, stove, furnace or fireplace vents? Lint, snow, leaves…
  – Clear all things from dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace vents.

  ASK: Who has warmed your vehicle up in the garage? Who has lost track of time after turning it on?
  – When warming a vehicle, move it out of the garage. Do not run a fueled engine inside, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not blocked.

Your Source for SAFETY Information
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— Mastering the 10-Minute Mini-Lesson: Preventing CO Poisoning —

ASK: Why might someone use a grill inside a garage? Raining, snowing…
– Always use barbecue grills outside and away from doors and windows. Never use grills inside the home or garage, even if the doors are open.
– A generator should be used outside only! NEVER use inside a home or garage.
– Keep generators at least 20 feet away from your house. Make sure they are far from windows, doors, and vent openings.

Step 3: Conclusion (1 minute)

- Review: Ask for volunteers to share something they can do to prevent CO poisoning at home. Ask for a variety of responses.
- Remind participants that simple steps will help increase safety.
- Share your contact information and encourage the attendees to contact you if they have any questions or concerns about other home safety issues.
- Thank everyone for their time and for inviting you to speak.

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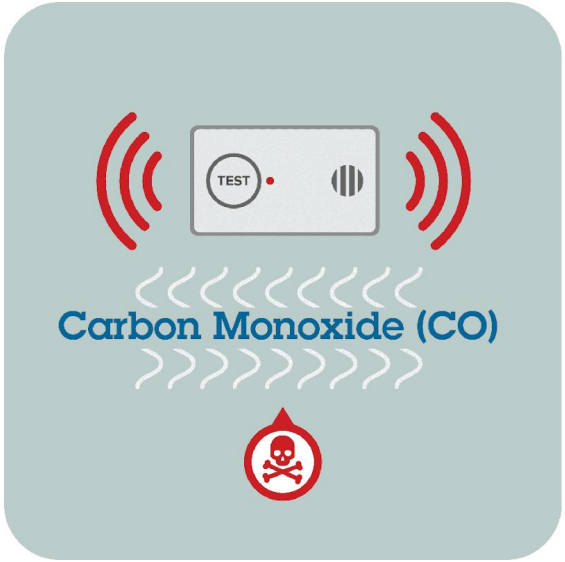
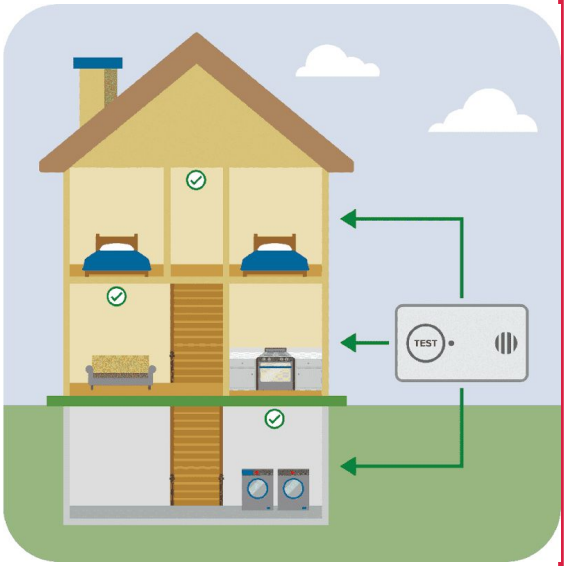
Pictographs





Chapter 3 Carbon Monoxide

3.8 Boating and Marinas

3.9 If your CO alarm sounds

NEW!

NEW! **3.8 Boating and Marinas**

3.8.1 Poorly tuned engines produce more carbon monoxide (CO). Keep your engine properly maintained. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for service.

3.8.2 Proper ventilation for engine and generator exhaust vents must be clear and pipes should be inspected for leaks.

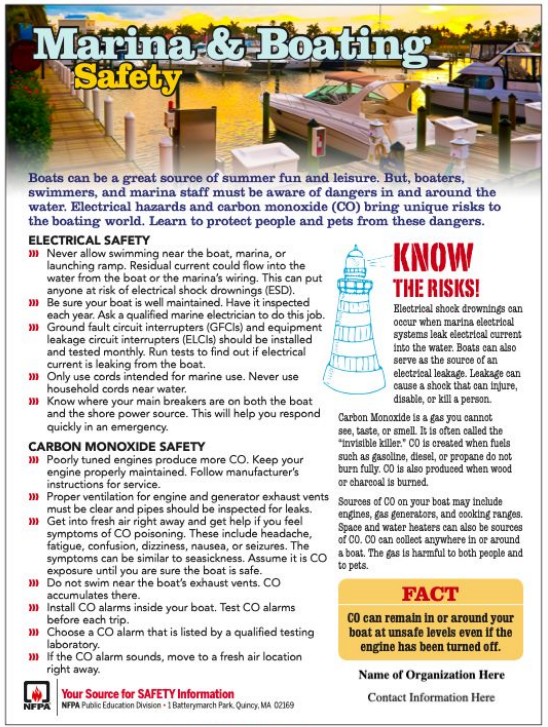
3.8.3 Get into fresh air right away and get help if you feel symptoms of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. These include headache, fatigue, confusion, dizziness, nausea, or seizures. The symptoms can be similar to seasickness. Assume it is CO exposure until you are sure the boat is safe.

3.8.4 Do not swim near the boat's exhaust vents. Carbon monoxide (CO) accumulates there.

3.8.5 Install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms inside your boat. Test CO alarms before each trip.

3.8.6 Choose a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

3.8.7 If the carbon monoxide (CO) alarm sounds, move to a fresh air location.



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Chapter 5

NEW!

5.3 Motor Home, Camper and Recreational Vehicle Safety

- ❑ Smoke alarms
- ❑ Carbon Monoxide
- ❑ Cooking
- ❑ Appliances
- ❑ Propane
- ❑ Appliance inspection
- ❑ Escape plan
- ❑ Fire extinguishers
- ❑ Vehicle service
- ❑ Heaters, lanterns, campfires

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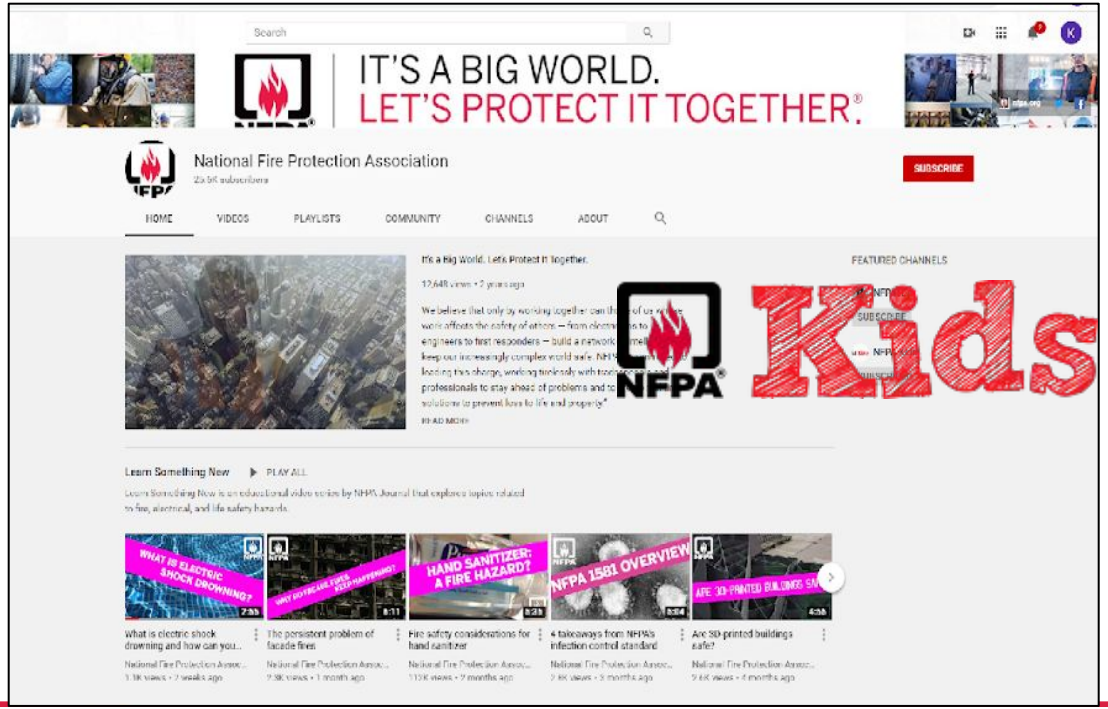
Learn Something New!



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A mission to save lives

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Author(s): Jesse Roman. Published on May 1, 2019.

Room 225

Since her parents were found dead in a North Carolina hotel room, Kris Hauschildt has worked to expose the hidden dangers of carbon monoxide

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED AND EDITED BY JESSE ROMAN • 13 MINUTE READ

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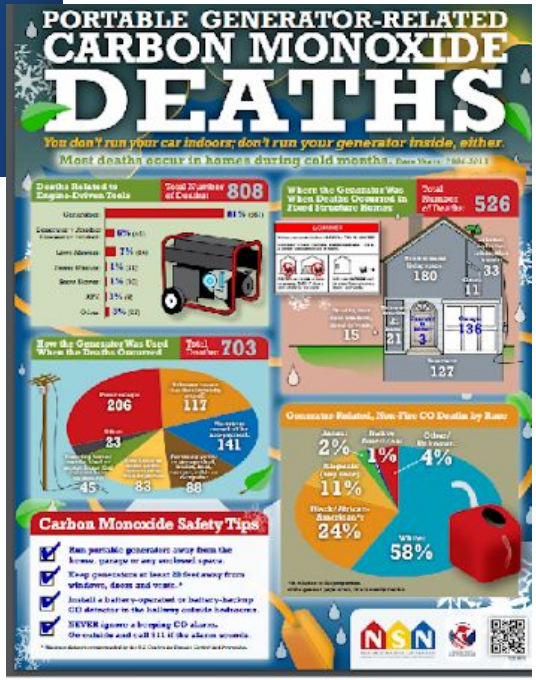
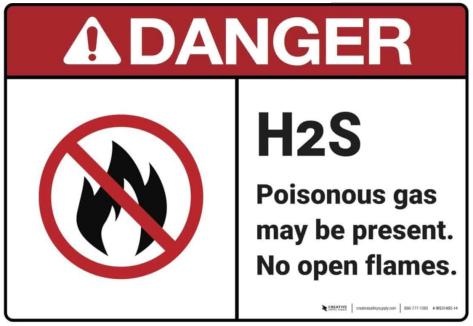
Other Emerging Issues





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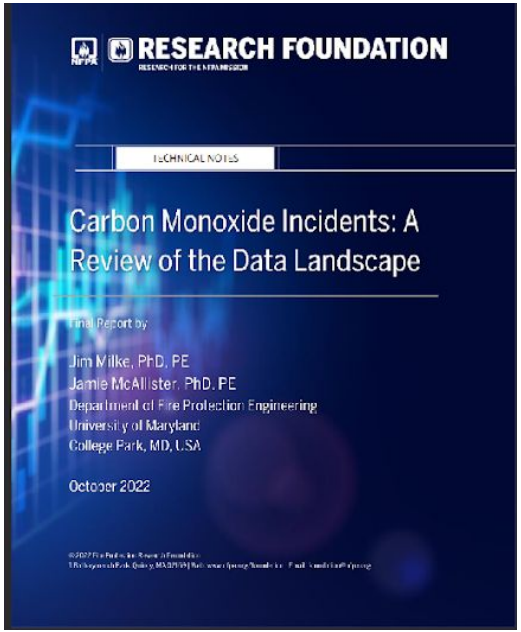

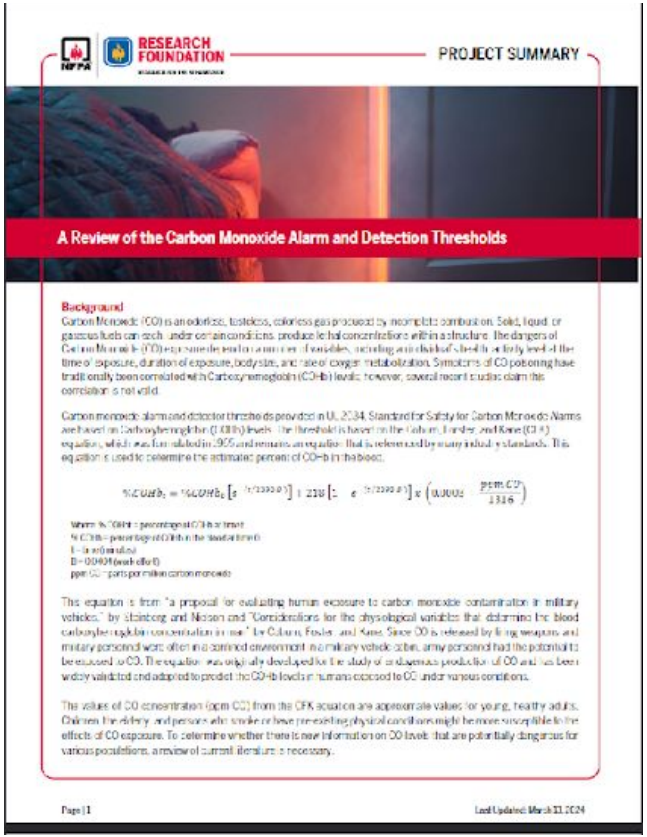

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CONCLUSION

- Fire and life safety is everyone's business; it impacts us all.
- There is no single answer to safety.
- We may not be able to prevent every tragedy from occurring, but by working together, recommitting to and promoting prevention, protection and education, we can further our fire and life safety work to help save lives and reduce loss.

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For more information:
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