



Commercial Instruments & Alarm Systems, Inc.

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CO detectors can save lives

Each year, approximately 200 people in New York State are hospitalized because of accidental Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, according to the New York State Department of Health. CO exposure is the leading cause of death due to poisoning in the United States. About one-third are poisoned by CO from a fire and about two-thirds are poisoned by CO produced by fuel-burning sources, such as a furnace or stove.

However, CO deaths are entirely preventable. Most CO exposures and poisonings occur when people are at home.

CO is a gas that can kill you quickly. It is called the *silent killer* because it is colorless, odorless, tasteless and non-irritating. If the early signs of CO exposure are ignored or the CO concentration is very high, a person may lose consciousness and be unable to escape the danger.

CO is present in outdoor and indoor air, and is produced by burning fuels such as wood, oil, natural gas, propane, kerosene, coal and gasoline. CO in indoor air is related to the presence of appliances which use CO-producing fuels.

New York State requires CO alarms in residences including single- and multiple-family homes, and in multiple dwellings such as hotels, boarding



**CAN'T BE
SEEN**

**CAN'T BE
SMELLED**



**CAN BE
STOPPED**

houses, apartment buildings, and school dormitories. The requirements apply to structures that have an attached garage or have appliances, devices or systems that may emit CO.

Contact our sales office to find out how you can add CO detectors to your system.

What are the sources of CO?

Appliances: Malfunctioning or misused fuel-burning appliances are common sources of CO poisoning. These include a malfunctioning furnace or water heater, non-electric kitchen range used for heat, portable non-electric space heater, or a gas or briquette grill used indoors or in a semi-enclosed space such as a porch. However, any appliance or heat source that produces CO and is not properly vented can cause a build-up of CO.

Portable Generators: A portable generator can also be a source of CO

poisoning. While a portable generator is useful for providing electricity when power is out or unavailable, it releases levels of CO that are much higher than an idling car. Never use a portable generator in the home or basement, even if windows are open. A portable generator should always be placed outside and away from windows and doors of any nearby building, the farther the better.

Tools and Equipment: Fuel-powered tools and equipment, such as lawn mowers, snow blowers, chain saws, and pressure-washers, emit CO. Never start or operate these devices in an enclosed space such as a garage.

Vehicles: A running automobile releases CO in the exhaust. To prevent increased indoor air levels of CO, never idle a vehicle in a garage or other enclosed structure.

News & Notes

EMAIL CHANGES

Please be sure to let us know of any changes in your email address. By providing your email address, you allow us to send important information via email that pertains to your security system, such as invoices and service information.

Our emails will not contain secure or private information about you nor will it contain information that will allow anyone to access your system or make changes.

CIA in Action

In early November, a Dutchess County family evacuated their home after a carbon monoxide detector sounded an alarm. The fire department was called and found that CO gas was in the house. The house was ventilated and no injuries were reported.

A home in Hyde Park also had elevated levels of carbon monoxide. The residents evacuated after the alarm activated the morning of Halloween. No ill effects were reported. The fire department was called to investigate the cause and air out the home.

A furnace malfunction set off a fire alarm at a Millbrook farm in early November. When the fire department arrived, they reported smoke pouring out of the basement windows. The furnace was turned off and the building was ventilated so that it could be occupied again.

An October explosion at a factory in Moonachie, NJ activated their monitored fire alarm system. CIA notified the fire department and crews were on scene within minutes. Four people were injured and the cause of the explosion is still under investigation.

Prevent false alarms and avoid town/village fees

When police respond to non-emergency alarm signals it is called a false dispatch or false alarm. False alarms can be costly to municipalities that have to send resources to investigate. Many municipalities now charge fines to home owners and business owners for having too many false dispatches.



Here are a few ways you can avoid accidentally triggering your alarm and reduce false dispatches in your community.

- Teach everyone in your home how to arm and disarm the system.
- Notify us when you will be traveling and if anyone will be coming into your house while you are away.
- If you give someone a key, give them a temporary code as well. Contact our office to set one up.
- Schedule a service call if you encounter any problems with your system.
- Make sure everyone in your home has memorized the pass code.
- Keep your contact information up to date.
- If you have pets, install a pet-friendly system.
- Check hanging decorations and curtains to ensure they won't activate the alarm.
- IF you remodel, contact our office to see if you need to reconfigure your alarm system.
- Check the batteries in your alarm system annually.
- Use video or audio verification to allow our dispatchers to see what is happening when an alarm is triggered. This form of verification is very effective in both responding to an emergency situation and preventing false dispatches.

The 'KEYS' to keeping kids safe

CIA Security is working to help parents safeguard their children with the KEYS initiative (Keep Every Youth Safe). CIA Security is offering WebProtectMe which allows parents to selectively control the internet content which you find harmful to, or inappropriate for your children. This service can be used on computers and mobile devices, such as iPads and iPhones. The program also provides protection from viruses and phishing and protects your identity and privacy.

We are offering this valuable service to your entire family free of charge for 30 days. After 30 days, you decide whether you'd like to continue this child protection service for just \$9.95 per month. Contact John Lombardi for more information.

Alarm systems can help sell your home

Selling your home? Be sure to have your realtor mention your advanced security and fire alarm as part of the features of your home. Your security system is a true asset that the buyer will benefit from having.

Before closing, contact our office for a Transfer of Ownership form to quickly and easily transfer the account and billing to the new owner.

CIA can also provide information so that you can be reimbursed at closing for any unused months of service – much like oil in the tank or property tax credits.

