

# Maryland State Fire Marshal

# News Release

**Martin O'Malley**  
Governor

**William E. Barnard**  
State Fire Marshal



## AVOID CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

**PIKESVILLE, MD** (February 22, 2013) -- Fire Marshal William E. Barnard wants to encourage Marylanders to be mindful of the dangers of carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, tasteless, and potentially toxic gas that is produced by the incomplete combustion of liquid fuels, solid fuels, or natural gas.

Homeowners should consider purchasing a carbon monoxide alarm if they live in a house that has liquid-fueled space heaters, an attached garage, gas appliances, oil heat, or a wood stove or fireplace. The best place to locate your CO alarm is on every floor and especially the hallway just outside the sleeping areas of your home.

The following tips can help decrease your chance of being poisoned by carbon monoxide:

- Never let your car idle in the garage.
- Never use a gas range, oven, or clothes dryer for heating.
- Scheduling preventive maintenance inspections for your fuel fired appliances.
- Make sure chimneys and flues are inspected and cleaned each year and remain in good condition.
- Never run a generator inside or near an entrance (door, window, vent, etc.) to your home.

Carbon monoxide poisoning can cause symptoms similar to the flu, such as: headache, nausea, fatigue, dizziness, and irritability. High concentrations of CO can cause vomiting, loss of consciousness, and even death.

*“Everyone needs to assume responsibility and take the initiative to protect themselves and their families from the potentially lethal affects caused by carbon monoxide poisoning,”* stated the State Fire Marshal.



The Office of the State Fire Marshal is an agency of the Department of State Police dedicated to helping protect citizens from fire and explosion through a comprehensive program of education, inspection, investigation and fire protection engineering. For more information on fire safety call 1-800-525-3124, log onto our website at:

[www.mdsp.org/firemarshal](http://www.mdsp.org/firemarshal) and/or <http://facebook.com/MarylandStateFireMarshal>.

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