



Roosevelt Fire District
Standard Operating Guidelines

Section:
Operations

Guideline 12:
Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Purpose: To establish procedures for maximizing firefighter safety during incidents involving carbon monoxide.

Scope: This procedure is to be followed by all officers and firefighters of the Roosevelt Fire District when operating at any incident related to carbon monoxide detection whether confirmed or suspected.

Responsibility: It shall be the job of the Incident Commander or the District Safety Officer to ensure that this guideline is enforced

Terms and Definitions: Carbon monoxide (CO): A colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is a byproduct of the fuel burning process. Effects of exposure to CO are dependent on the concentration and length of exposure. Symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, nausea, fatigue, and dizziness. Death may result at high levels of exposure.

Procedure:

1. Complete PPE shall be worn while operating at all CO incidents. SCBA shall be worn at any incident where there are positive readings of CO or where patients/occupants show symptoms.
2. Upon arrival of the first officer or unit, an attempt should be made to validate the alarm through the following:
 - a. Try to contact the occupants and discuss the alarm situation with them. While discussing the alarm evaluate the occupant(s) for any signs or symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning. If there are any signs or symptoms immediately refer them to EMS personnel and begin evacuating the building.
 - b. Check the atmosphere with the gas detector. Begin checking at the entrance (outside in the fresh air) and proceed through the building in accordance with the building check sheet. If at any time the meter goes into an alarm condition, (around 33 ppm) exit the building and don SCBA prior to continuing the atmosphere check.
 - c. Check the building completely for potential sources of carbon monoxide and possible victims.
3. If any CO levels over 35 ppm are detected advise the incident commander immediately, evacuate the building and refer occupants to EMS personnel. Check for the source of the carbon monoxide. Be aware that the occupant(s) may have already vented the structure. If

a source of CO is not found BUT Co continues to be detected, do not allow the occupant(s) to re-enter the structure.

4. Do not attempt to repair or correct any problem which may be causing the CO levels. Only advise occupant(s) of the condition found. If a suspected cause involves a fuel burning appliance using natural gas, heating oil or propane then a response should be requested for Central Hudson Gas and Electric, the occupant's oil provider or gas supplier.
5. Turn off any appliance or heating unit suspected of generating CO and advise the occupant not to use the device until it is repaired.
6. If a faulty heating appliance is found, the Incident Commander shall issue a Uniform Fire Code Notification.
7. If no CO levels are found, exit the building, clear the CO detection instrument, recheck the building again, then advise the occupant(s) of your findings.
8. If no CO levels are detected that require fire department action, but the occupant detector was in alarm, remove the detector from service. Advise the occupant(s) to have their unit repaired or replaced.
9. Any occupant(s) that indicates that they have symptoms related to CO or have answered **YES** to the symptoms listed on the occupant interview check sheet, will be referred to EMS personnel for evaluation.