



Carbon Monoxide Alert

Attention All Facilities



The ESRD Network of Texas, Inc. and the Medical Review Board (MRB) want to remind everyone that as the temperatures outside begin to cool down special safety precautions need to be taken. All fuel burning appliances such as furnaces, water heaters, and room heaters can potentially be sources of Carbon Monoxide poisoning in buildings and homes.

Please make sure that your facility considers the following recommended safety precautions:

- Make sure that appliances are installed according to manufacturer's instructions and local building codes.
- Have your fuel-burning appliances – including oil and gas furnaces, gas water heaters, gas ranges and ovens, gas dryers, gas or kerosene space heaters, fireplaces, and woodstoves – inspected by a trained professional at the beginning of every heating season.
- Install a Carbon Monoxide detector/alarm that meets the requirements of the current UL standard 2034 or the requirements of the IAS 6-96 standard. A Carbon Monoxide detector/alarm can provide added protection, but is no substitute for proper use and upkeep of appliances that can produce Carbon Monoxide.
- Never use gasoline-powered engines (small engines or generators) in enclosed spaces.

Train staff to know the symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:

- Initial symptoms are similar to the flu (but without the fever):
 - Headache
 - Fatigue
 - Shortness of Breath
 - Nausea
 - Dizziness
- At moderate levels of Carbon Monoxide:
 - Severe headache
 - Mental confusion
 - Fainting
 - Death
- Whenever several staff or patients experience these symptoms **take action!**

If a possible exposure event happens, take the following actions:

- EVACUATE – get everyone out of the building and into the fresh air.
- CALL 911 – Make sure that you notify emergency services for assistance with this situation.
- ADMINISTER OXYGEN – 100% oxygen with a tight fitting mask.
- BEGIN CPR – on anyone that has stopped breathing.
- TRANSPORT to the emergency room for full evaluation and clearance.
- INVESTIGATE – find the cause of the Carbon Monoxide and correct the problem.

Prevention of any incident is the best course of action therefore, have all appliances checked annually by a professional, and install the Carbon Monoxide detectors (fairly inexpensive and may save many lives!).