

## MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR JUDI BOSWORTH



Each year, we hear of countless tragic deaths caused by Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning. What makes these deaths so heart-breaking is that they are avoidable. CO is known as the “invisible killer” and for that reason it is critical that residents are informed of the dangers of CO,

and how they can protect themselves and their families. Learning about the symptoms and warning signs of CO poisoning can help save lives. A simple examination of your home can help alert you to sources of and clues to a CO problem. I encourage you to take the time to read through the tips in this guide and to call 311 if you have any questions.

*Judi*



### TOWN LEGISLATION ABOUT CO DETECTORS

In 2014, Supervisor Bosworth and the Town Board unanimously approved the required use of digital carbon monoxide detectors in places of assembly (0-50 people) and public assembly (50 or more people). This measure was taken in order to protect residents from the dangers of elevated CO levels.

Special thanks to the U.S. Consumer  
Product Safety Commission for  
the information in this brochure

### NORTH HEMPSTEAD ELECTED OFFICIALS

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*Town Clerk*

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*Receiver of Taxes*

# Carbon Monoxide Awareness

IN THE TOWN OF  
NORTH HEMPSTEAD



**CALL 311** for more information  
regarding the Town Code

**JUDI BOSWORTH**  
TOWN SUPERVISOR

**JOHN NIEWENDER**  
BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT COMMISSIONER



## WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?

Carbon monoxide is produced by burning fuel. Therefore, any fuel-burning appliance in your home is a potential CO source.

When cooking or heating appliances are kept in good working order, they produce little CO. Improperly operating appliances can produce fatal CO concentrations in your home.

Proper installation, operation, and maintenance of fuel-burning appliances in the home is the most important factor in reducing the risk of CO poisoning. Make sure appliances are installed according to the manufacturer's instructions and the local codes. Most appliances should be installed by professionals.

## SYMPTOMS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

The initial symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever). They include:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Dizziness



## DID YOU KNOW?

Every year more than 100 people in the United States die from unintentional exposure to carbon monoxide associated with consumer products.



If you suspect that you are experiencing carbon monoxide poisoning, get fresh air as soon as possible. Leave your home and call for assistance from a neighbor's home. You could lose consciousness and die from CO poisoning if you stay in your home.

Get medical attention immediately and inform medical staff that CO poisoning is suspected. Call the Fire Department to determine when it is safe to reenter your home.

## CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY TIPS

- Have your home heating systems (including chimneys and vents) inspected and serviced annually by a trained service technician.
- Open the fireplace damper before lighting a fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool. An open damper may help prevent build-up of poisonous gases inside the home.
- Install battery-operated CO alarms or CO alarms with battery backup in your home outside each sleeping room and at least 1 per floor.  
It's the law.

## CO CLUES YOU CAN SEE

- Rusting or water streaking on vent/chimney
- Loose or missing furnace panel
- Accumulation of soot
- Debris or soot falling from chimney, fireplace, or appliances
- Loose or disconnected vent/chimney, fireplace or appliance
- Loose masonry on chimney
- Moisture inside of windows

## CO CLUES YOU CANNOT SEE

- Internal appliance damage or malfunctioning components
- Improper burner adjustments
- Hidden blockage or damage in chimneys



## WARNINGS



- Never leave a car running in a garage even with the garage door open.
- Never run a generator in the home, garage, or a crawlspace. Opening doors and windows or using fans will NOT prevent CO build-up in the home. When running a generator outdoors, keep it away from open windows and doors.
- Never burn charcoal in homes, tents, vehicles, or garages. Do not BBQ in your garage.
- Never install or service combustion appliances without proper knowledge, skills, and tools.
- Never use a gas range, oven, or dryer for heating.
- Never put foil on the bottom of a gas oven because it interferes with combustion.
- Never operate an unvented gas-burning appliance in a closed room or in a room in which you are sleeping.