

HIGH RISK/LOW FREQUENCY

HUDSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

GUIDELINE NO: 300.09

**SUBJECT: CARBON MONOXIDE
ALARMS/INCIDENTS**

APPROVAL: Scott St. Martin, Fire Chief

Effective Date:

Revised Date: n/a

PURPOSE

This guideline has been developed to provide the Hudson Fire Department with directions to be followed in the event of a carbon monoxide (CO) alarms and incidents.

RESPONSIBILITY

1. All Chief and Company Officers have the responsibility to comply with and ensure that the personnel under their command are adequately trained, fully understand, and comply with this guideline.
2. All firefighters have the responsibility to learn and follow this guideline.

GUIDELINE

A. Incident Priorities

1. Life Safety
2. Incident Stabilization
3. Property Conservation

B. General Information

1. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless, colorless gas that is deadly. It is a by-product of fuel burning process. Many appliances such as furnaces, kitchen stoves, hot water heaters, automobiles, etc. can produce carbon monoxide. When a faulty or unusual condition exists, carbon monoxide may be vented into areas where people are present.
2. Carbon monoxide poisoning may be difficult to diagnose. Its symptoms are similar to the flu, which may include headache, nausea, fatigue and dizzy spells.

C. Apparatus Response

1. Apparatus response is outlined in *300.01 Apparatus Response Guideline*.
2. All apparatus shall respond reduced speed unless initial information is given otherwise.

D. First arriving Fire Department Officer shall give first in report and establish or transfer Incident Command.

1. Once Command has been established, Command or designee shall interview building occupant(s).

E. Emergency Medical Services shall be called to check on any occupants complaining of or displaying symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.

F. Investigation Equipment and Reports

1. Responding apparatus carry four gas detectors
 - a. See *Guideline 300.24* for operational procedures for gas detection equipment.
 - b. Gas detection equipment shall not be placed in direct line of vehicle exhaust as sensor damage may occur.
2. All appropriate report forms shall be submitted with incident report upon returning to fire station.

G. Investigation

1. No one is to enter the building until a CO level reading is taken inside the door.
2. No one is to enter the building without CO detection equipment.
3. An SCBA shall be worn by anyone entering building if a reading of 35 PPM of CO is detected at any time throughout the investigation.
4. If personnel need to don SCBA, a backup crew must be on the scene prior to further interior operations.
5. Once personnel have entered the building, the carbon monoxide detector shall be checked (if one is present).
 - a. Determine the cause of the alarm, i.e. true alarm, low battery indication, poor location of device, etc. (Consult owner's manual of particular detector if possible)
6. Notification of utility company when natural gas supply is involved.
 - a. Notify Utility company if there is a fatality involved or someone is transported for medical treatment
 - b. Utility Company may be requested to respond for the evaluation of the natural gas burning appliances.
 - c. Notify Utility Company if their gas valve is turned off.
7. If the customer's natural gas supply valve is turned off, a qualified professional need to be contacted by the building owner or occupant before that can be turned back on.
8. If fossil fuel-burning appliances other than natural gas are present, a qualified professional with the appropriate expertise may be requested to respond and provide assistance in the investigation.
9. If more than 35 PPM of CO is detected, only fire personnel shall remain in the building.
 - a. Alternate means of housing/occupancy may need to be located for displaced occupants.
10. Fire personnel will attempt to locate the highest concentration of CO, ventilate the building and isolate any suspected appliance or device.
11. Advise owner/occupant that a professional needs to be contacted to take necessary corrective action to any perceived source of elevated levels of CO.
12. The occupant present will receive and sign for the *Notice of Findings* Report from the Incident Commander or designee.