



HOME FIRE AND COMBUSTION SAFETY

November Safety Tips

CARBON MONOXIDE



Carbon Monoxide Facts

- Carbon Monoxide is called the silent killer; it is colorless and odorless and kills when it preferentially binds with hemoglobin over oxygen in the bloodstream leading to oxygen starvation
- Numerous sources of CO exist in the home: Furnaces or boilers, Gas stoves and ovens, Fireplaces, both gas and wood burning, Water heaters, Wood stoves, Power generators, Motor vehicles
- During 1999–2010, a total of 5,149 deaths from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning occurred in the United States, an average of 430 deaths per year.
- At low concentrations, the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning resemble the flu: headache, nausea, fatigue.



Safety Tips

- Do not run vehicles or fueled engines or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow
- Generators and grills should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.

CO: The Silent Killer

CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY



Tree Fire Statistics

- Between 2009-2013, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 210 home fires that started with Christmas trees.
- These fires caused an average of 7 deaths, 19 injuries, and \$17.5 million in direct property damage annually.
- On average, one of every 31 reported home fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 144 total reported home fires.

Safety Tips

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles
- Cut 1" - 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Place the tree > 3 three feet away from heat sources
- Add water to the tree stand daily
- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

If in doubt; buy plastic

GAS PUMP SAFETY



Gas Station Statistics

- An estimated 5,020 fires and explosions occurred at public service stations per year from 2004-2008
- On average, one in every 13 service stations experienced a fire.
- These fires caused an annual average of two civilian deaths, 48 civilian injuries and \$20 million in property damage.



Safety Tips

- Turn off your vehicle engine. Disable or turn off any auxiliary sources of ignition
- Do not smoke, light matches or lighters while refueling at the pump
- Use only the refueling latch provided on the gasoline dispenser nozzle. Never jam the refueling latch on the nozzle open.
- Do not re-enter your vehicle during refueling. If you cannot avoid re-entering your vehicle, discharge any static build-up BEFORE reaching for the nozzle by touching something metal with a bare hand -- such as the vehicle door -- away from the nozzle.)

Gasoline is highly flammable and toxic