

With Fuel Bills Rising, Watch Out For Hazards From Alternative Home Heating Sources

(NAPSA)—With temperatures dropping and homes tightly insulated against one of the coldest winters/early springs on record, many homeowners may be turning to alternative heating sources to heat their homes—with potentially disastrous results. Although you think you are saving money, keeping warm using alternative heating sources such as stoves, cook tops, fireplaces, kerosene space heaters, even clothes dryers can result in deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.

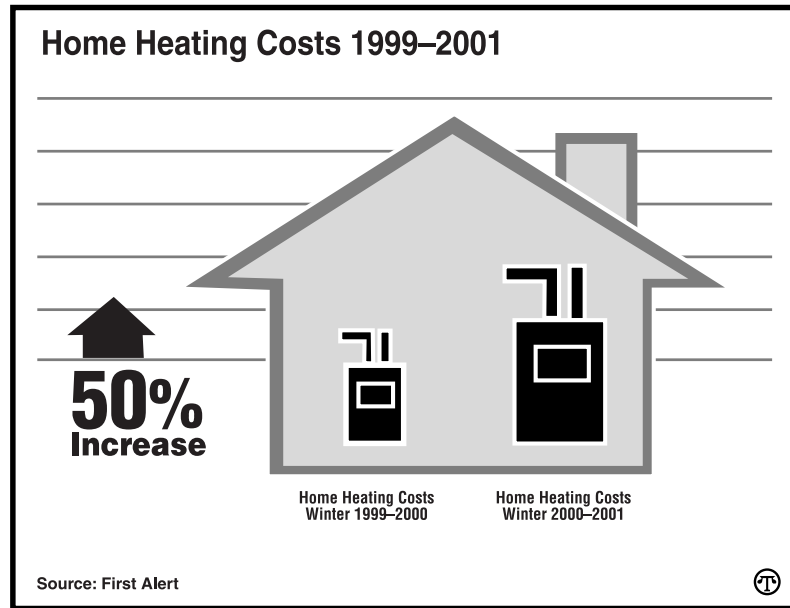
So hazardous is the situation that the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recently issued a consumer alert that calls for “a carbon monoxide alarm for every home.”

Particularly dangerous because it is invisible to the human senses, CO can overcome even a robust adult in only minutes. They quickly can face coma, permanent brain damage, and if not rescued, ultimately—death. In fact, CO poisoning claims 2,100 lives yearly, more than any other poison, according to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*; yet only 27 percent of U.S. homes have even one alarm, according to industry statistics.

Taking some basic steps to reduce your family’s risk of CO poisoning this winter and early spring may virtually save your life if you should encounter CO, the “Silent Killer.”

- Install a UL listed carbon monoxide detector on every level of the house, especially outside sleeping areas. Make sure fossil-fuel burning appliances are installed properly and working according to the manufacturers’ instructions.

- Have your home heating sys-



With costs for home heating increasing nearly 50 percent over last year during one of the coldest winters on record, many Americans may be turning to alternative heating sources—some that are potentially dangerous for CO poisoning.

tem, chimney and flue inspected and cleaned by a qualified technician every year.

- Never use ovens or other alternative energy sources that run on fossil fuel (stoves, cook tops, kerosene space heaters, even clothes dryers) to heat your home.

- Never burn charcoal inside your house, even in the fireplace.

- Have your gas fireplace inspected each fall to be sure the pilot light burns safely and other elements are in working order.

- Keep chimneys clear of bird or squirrel nests, leaves and residue to insure proper venting.

- Never operate gasoline-powered engines in confined areas such as garages or basements and

never leave your car, mower or other vehicle running in an attached garage, even with the door open.

First Alert, a leading manufacturer of home safety products, advises that if your alarm should sound a warning, you should never ignore it. The early warning is just that—early. Without knowing how serious the leak is, you should never ignore the alarm. Never.

For a free brochure on the carbon monoxide hazard and how to protect your family, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to First Alert, Carbon Monoxide Brochure Offer, 3145 MacArthur Blvd., Suite C, Northbrook, IL 60062; or log onto www.firstalert.com.