



Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

(NAPSA)—Carbon monoxide is the number one cause of unintentional poisoning in the United States, resulting in about 5,600 deaths each year.

Carbon monoxide is known as the “silent killer” because it is difficult to detect. Often, heating and cooking equipment are the sources. The key to staying safe is recognizing the warning signs that could indicate carbon monoxide in the home. These include:

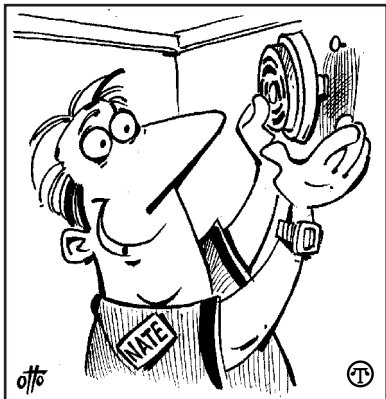
- Sickness among family members. Symptoms may include frequent headaches, burning sensations in the nose and eyes, blurred vision, even fainting.
- Gas flames in the furnace that appear to be burning yellow instead of blue.
- Black chimney smoke or irregular noises produced by an oil furnace or hot water heater.
- Excessive moisture on windows and walls in a gas-heated home.

North American Technician Excellence (NATE), the nation's largest non-profit certification organization for heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration technicians, reminds people that carbon monoxide might still be present in the home even if these warning signs aren't.

Steps to protect

In addition to knowing the warning signs and hiring a contractor who employs NATE-certified technicians to service your heating equipment, you can protect your loved ones by:

- Installing carbon monoxide detectors with alarms throughout



A carbon monoxide detector is one simple step homeowners can take to protect their families.

the home.

- Avoiding the use of vehicles, other fueled engines (lawnmowers, weed eaters) or gas barbecue grills inside the garage, even if the door is open.
- If you install cooking equipment, have it inspected. Or select factory-built cooking equipment approved by an independent testing laboratory.
- Opening the flue for adequate ventilation when using the fireplace.

An annual evaluation and proper maintenance by a NATE-certified technician will help ensure that heating and cooling systems are in good working order and may help reduce health and safety concerns.

For more information on NATE, call 877-420-NATE. To find a NATE-certified technician in your area, visit the Web site at www.natex.org.