



Campus Cops Corner

-Public Safety Tips for the PPCC Community-

Public Safety Newsletter

As if taking her cue from the calendar, Mother Nature bestowed us with cold weather this past week. In addition to my scramble to find gloves, I noted that my homes' furnace kicked on. That got me thinking about the number of accidental carbon monoxide deaths we suffer in Colorado each year. In March of this year, Governor Ritter signed HB 09-1091 into law. It requires carbon monoxide detectors placed in certain homes and under certain circumstances, but please take my advice, all homes, including yours, need CO detectors.

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CARBON MONOXIDE

"The Silent Killer"

Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced by the devices and appliances which use gas (i.e., furnace, hot water heater, ranges, dryers, etc.), so it's important to have them professionally inspected at the beginning of each heating season. Of course, these aren't the only culprits in these tragedies. Running a car in the garage (even with the garage door open), utilizing a gas oven to heat the house, an improperly functioning fireplace / chimney flue, are among the many ways we manage to get in trouble. .

Please make a point of installing CO detectors within 15 feet of each "sleeping area" in your home. Even better, install one on every floor of your home.

Carbon monoxide is tasteless, odorless and virtually undetectable without the benefit of a mechanical detector. The CO displaces the oxygen in your body and eventually causes death. Mild and moderate symptoms at the onset are described as mild headaches, nausea, shortness of breath, being dizzy and confusion. Most times, the victims aren't even aware of what's happening to them other than to know that they're not feeling well. Get outside and call 9-1-1 immediately. Although fresh air and ventilation is important, long term health problems are also possible.

CO detectors cost about \$25 to \$50 a piece. I recommend one that "plugs in" and has a battery back-up.

Please go to www.homesafe.com/coalert/detect.htm for more information.

Important Numbers & websites:

- 24-7 Emergency Number: 502-2911
- Emergency Alert Sign Up: www.ppcc.edu/alert
- Crime Stoppers
634-STOP (7867)
- Anonymous Reporting
www.SAFE2TELL.org

1-877-542-7233

