



Washington State Patrol

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

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For Immediate Release

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Government and Media Relations

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Carbon Monoxide Safety

Olympia – Carbon monoxide is an odorless and colorless gas that can be deadly if undetected. Carbon monoxide can be produced from heating, cooking, vehicle exhaust, or generators. Proper installation, testing, and maintenance of carbon monoxide detectors is essential for preventing carbon monoxide poisoning. The United States Fire Administration reports that more than 150 deaths are caused by carbon monoxide exposure every year. Last year in Washington State, 788 carbon monoxide incidents were reported by fire and emergency medical services agencies and one reported death.

The State Fire Marshal's Office offers the following safety tips:

- Install carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home, especially near sleeping areas.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting of CO devices.
- Install a combination of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Test carbon monoxide detectors at least once a month.
- Replace batteries in battery-operated detectors at least once a year.
- Replace carbon monoxide detectors every 5-7 years per the manufacturer's guidelines.
- If your carbon monoxide detector alarms, immediately exit the home and do not re-enter the premises. Once outside, call 911 or your local fire department.
- Never use generators inside homes, garages, or basements.
- If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, seek medical attention immediately.
- If possible, install interconnected carbon monoxide alarms throughout the home.

For more information, contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 596-3929.

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The State Fire Marshal's Office is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State. These services include public education, licensing and certification of the fire sprinkler, fireworks, and cigarette industries, data collection and analysis, fire and life safety inspections for state facilities, plan review of school construction projects, all-risk mobilization of statewide fire service resources, hazardous materials training, and the training and certification of firefighters.

www.wsp.wa.gov/state-fire-marshals-office/