

Penn State Pointers ► A Matter of Life or Death

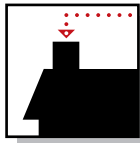
Carbon monoxide can be a major winter hazard as homeowners turn on heating systems and gas appliances.

To reduce your family's risks, you should:



Install carbon monoxide detectors.

You should place one detector in each bedroom at a minimum, but placing one in every room in the house is best. Check all your detectors each year before heating season.



Check chimneys and fireplaces for leaks and obstructions.

Homeowners should check for creosote and bird or animal nests. Use masonry or heating professionals to check for leaks.



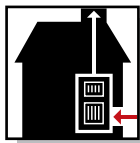
Be sure gas-operated heaters or appliances are properly adjusted.

If the flame isn't blue, it's time to call for service. To assure proper maintenance, appliances should be checked every year.



Use the proper fuels for your heating units.

Never burn laminated or pressure-treated wood in woodstoves. Use #1 kerosene fuel in kerosene heaters only.



Vent all indoor heating units to an exterior air source.

Proper installation, ventilation and maintenance are the keys to reducing carbon monoxide risk.

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For Fall/September Time Frame