

# Carbon Monoxide Alarm

---

## 15.1900 Scope:

When an alarm is received for a carbon monoxide detector going off, a single Unit response (E40 or R41) from the station area where the call originates will respond non-emergency unless a rescue situation is present (a CO monitor and spare detector should be located on E40 and R41). The following shall be guidelines used to handle carbon monoxide emergencies:

## 15.1901 Procedure:

- a. Enter structure in full protective clothing including S.C.B.A. with the gas monitor. The monitor should be zeroed and set-up inside a clean air environment (no vehicle fumes). Verify that the alarm is a carbon monoxide detector not a smoke alarm.
- b. If it is determined to be a smoke alarm S.O.G.s for fire shall be followed. If it is a carbon monoxide detector:
  - i. Be sure the structure is evacuated and start the investigation procedure with 2-3 firefighters only.
  - ii. Determine if anyone exhibits any symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning (symptoms may include, but not limited to, headache, nausea, fatigue, dizzy spells or impaired judgment).
  - iii. If no one exhibits any symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, check the interior to get a P.P.M. CO reading. Use the CO "Quick Checklist" to guide your inspection.
- c. Monitor readings of 10 PPM and below, 11 PPM and above, and greater than 100 PPM
  - i. If the monitor has a reading of 10 PPM or less, this is the level established by the Environmental Protection Agency as a "not to exceed in an 8 hour period". Residents should be informed that they should contact a reputable service company and have their appliances checked. Have their CO detector checked as recommended by the manufacturer. Advise the residents to call 911 if the alarm reactivates. Have the resident sign and keep a copy of the 'Alarm Emergency' information form and the 'Quick Checklist'.
  - ii. If the monitor has a reading of 11 PPM or greater but less than 100 PPM:
    1. Ventilation (electric fans) of the structure shall begin to bring levels below 10 PPM.
    2. If it is determined that an appliance is malfunctioning it will be shut off. Once the appliance has been shut off, monitor the structure for CO levels. If the levels remain below 10 PPM inform the resident to contact a reputable service company and have their malfunctioning appliance repaired.

3. Local Gas Company shall be notified if necessary
  4. Inform the residents to what was found
  5. If the gas company has been notified, they should be enroute and the crew should stand-by until arrival of the Gas Company. Have the CO detector checked as recommended by the manufacturer. Advise the residents to contact 911 if the alarm reactivates. Have the resident sign and keep a copy of the 'Alarm Emergency' information form and the 'Quick Checklist'.
- d. Monitor readings of 100 PPM or greater:
- i. Ventilation (electric fans) of the structure shall begin to bring the CO level below 10 PPM.
  - ii. If it is determined that an appliance is malfunctioning it will be shut off. Once the appliance has been shut off, monitor the structure for CO levels. If the levels remain below 10 PPM inform the resident to contact a reputable service company and have their malfunctioning appliance repaired.
  - iii. Local Gas Company shall be notified if necessary.
  - iv. Inform the resident that a potentially lethal level of CO was detected. If the local gas company has been notified and is enroute, the crew should stand-by until arrival of the Gas Company. Have the CO detector checked as recommended by the manufacturer. Have the resident sign and keep a copy of the 'Alarm Emergency' information form and the 'Quick Checklist'.
  - v. Inform the resident to contact 911 if the alarm reactivates.

**15.1902 Safety:**

SCBAs shall be worn by all personnel who enter the structure to check for carbon monoxide gas. This also includes full protective bunker gear, pants, gloves and nomex hood with helmet. The equipment will continue to be worn until the gas meter can sample the air to determine if it is safe to breathe without S.C.B.A.