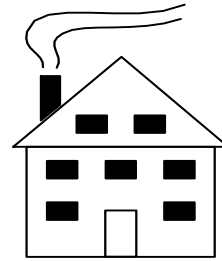


# Carbon Monoxide Safety



## True Story

*Five adults and five teenagers were hospitalized after being overcome by carbon monoxide. Electrical service to their home had been turned off and they were using a gas generator for power. They placed the running generator in their basement to keep it from being stolen.*

-From the files of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

## The Facts

- Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas.
- Every year, more than 200 people in the United States die from CO poisoning and several thousand people go to hospital emergency rooms for treatment.
- Appliances fueled with natural gas, liquefied petroleum (LP gas), oil kerosene, coal, or wood may produce CO. Burning charcoal and running cars also produce CO.
- The initial symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to the flu (without the fever). They include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness.

## What You Can Do

- Install battery-operated CO alarms or plug-in CO alarms with battery back-up in your home.
- Make sure appliances are installed according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Have your heating system (including chimneys and vents) inspected and serviced annually.
- Never burn charcoal inside a home, garage, vehicle or tent.
- Never use portable fuel-burning camping equipment inside a home, garage, vehicle or tent.
- Never run a generator in the home, garage or crawlspace.
- When running generators outdoors, keep them away from windows and doors.
- Never leave a car running in an attached garage, even with the garage door open.

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission



Led By  
**BLANK CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL**  
IOWA HEALTH SYSTEM

Safe Kids Greater Des Moines, led by Blank Children's Hospital, is a grassroots organization dedicated to preventing unintentional injury in children ages 0-14.

For more information call (515) 241-6293 or visit [www.dsmsafekids.org](http://www.dsmsafekids.org).

© 2006 Safe Kids