

# CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR BYLAW

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

**IMPORTANT NOTE!**  
MISSISSAUGA'S CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR BYLAW TAKES EFFECT ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2000

IS YOURS INSTALLED?



# CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR BYLAW

## WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

The Province of Ontario has experienced an increasing number of accidental carbon monoxide poisoning incidents over the past several years which have resulted in serious injury, and in, extreme cases, death.

## WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?

Carbon monoxide (CO), is a poisonous gas that cannot be seen, smelled or tasted. It is often referred to as the "silent killer." CO can be produced by gas, oil furnaces, space and water heaters, clothes dryers, ovens, wood stoves, barbecues and other household appliances that run on fossil fuels such as wood, gas, oil or coal.

Improperly installed or poorly maintained appliances that run on these fuels may create unsafe levels of CO. In enclosed spaces such as your home, cottage or recreational vehicle, even a small amount of CO is dangerous.

## WHY IS CARBON MONOXIDE SO DEADLY?

When you breathe in heavy concentrations of carbon monoxide, brain damage, suffocation or death may occur.

Because you cannot see, smell or taste it, poisoning can happen to anyone, any time, anywhere. Everyone is at risk; however, pregnant women, young children, senior citizens and people with heart and lung problems, are more susceptible.

## WHAT CAN CREATE A CO HAZARD?

- CO Fuel burning appliances, venting systems and chimneys that have not been serviced and maintained regularly by a qualified service technician or heating contractor.
- CO A chimney blocked by a nest, snow and ice or other debris.
- CO Improper venting of a furnace and cracked furnace heat exchangers.
- CO Exhaust fumes seeping into your home from a running car in an attached garage.
- CO Using fuel burning appliances designed for outdoor use such as barbecues, lanterns, chainsaws, lawnmowers or snowblowers in an enclosed area such as a tent, recreational vehicle, cottage, workshop or garage.
- CO If a home is too airtight, fuel burning appliances may have to compete for available oxygen causing a backdraft which would suck polluted or CO contaminated air back into your home.

## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING?

Carbon monoxide poisoning is difficult to diagnose as its symptoms are similar to those of the flu. Symptoms may include

fatigue, headaches, dizziness and nausea. To help identify carbon monoxide poisoning, ask other members of your household if they are experiencing any of the same symptoms. If so, you may be suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning and should consult your physician immediately.

## HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF IN THE HOME?

- 1 Regular maintenance and cleaning of all fuel burning appliances by a qualified technician at least once a year.
- 2 Regular inspections and cleaning by a qualified technician of all vent pipes and chimney flues at least once a year.
- 3 Install at least one carbon monoxide detector on every level of your home where a sleeping unit exists.

## THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA'S CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR BYLAW

The Bylaw requires the installation and maintenance of carbon monoxide detectors in all residential occupancies containing fuel burning appliances.

### 1. In this Bylaw:

- (a) "Carbon monoxide detector" means a device which initiates an audible signal either locally or to a supervised location, when excessive concentrations of carbon monoxide are detected, and which is listed as conforming to CAN/CGA 6.19 or UL 2034 standards;
- (b) "Dwelling unit" means a building or part of a building, comprised of a room, or series of rooms, operated as a housekeeping unit, used or

intended to be used as a domicile by one or more persons and which may contain cooking, eating, living, sleeping and sanitary facilities and including its respective appurtenant hallways;

- (c) "Fuel burning appliance" means appliances such as, but not limited to, furnaces, refrigerators, clothes dryers, water heaters, boilers, fireplaces, wood stoves, charcoal grills, gas ranges and space heaters, which are fired by flammable fuels such as, but not limited to, natural gas, propane, heating oil, kerosene, coal, gasoline, wood and charcoal;
- (d) "Multi unit residential structure" means any building that contains more than one dwelling unit and includes, but is not limited to, apartment buildings, boarding, lodging and rooming houses, nursing homes, hotels, motels, and hospitals;
- (e) "Ontario Building Code" means Ontario Regulation 403/97, issued pursuant to the Building Code Act, S.O. 1992, c.23, as amended from time to time and includes any successor legislation or regulation;
- (f) "Owner" includes any person, firm or corporation, having control over any portion of a dwelling unit or a multi unit residential structure and includes the persons in occupation of a dwelling unit or multi unit residential structure;
- (g) "Service room" means any room containing a fuel burning appliance, located in a multi unit residential structure, which is not a dwelling unit or within a dwelling unit.

**2. Every owner of a dwelling unit and a multi unit residential structure shall operate and maintain heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems, including appliances, chimneys and flue pipes, so as not to create a hazardous condition.**

**3. Every owner shall install or cause to be installed a minimum of one (1) carbon monoxide detector:**

- (a) in each dwelling unit which contains a fuel burning appliance; and
- (b) in the case of a multi unit residential structure, in each dwelling unit located on the same floor level as a fuel burning appliance and in each service room, provided that the detector installed in each service room shall be equipped with a remote signal, visible and audible in a supervised or conspicuous location.

**4. If a carbon monoxide detector is required and has been installed in a dwelling unit in accordance with the requirements of the Ontario Building Code, then the dwelling unit shall be deemed to comply with this Bylaw.**

**5. Every owner of a dwelling unit or a multi unit residential structure shall ensure that each carbon monoxide detector installed in a dwelling unit or a service room is installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall be equipped with an alarm that is audible within all bedrooms when the intervening doors are closed.**

**6. Every owner of a dwelling unit or a multi unit residential structure**

**shall ensure that each carbon monoxide detector installed in a dwelling unit or a service room is maintained in good operating condition and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.**

**7. Every owner shall ensure that where an electrically powered carbon monoxide detector is installed, each such carbon monoxide detector shall:**

- (a) be equipped with visual indications that it is in operating condition; and
- (b) have no power switch between the carbon monoxide detector and the power distribution panel.

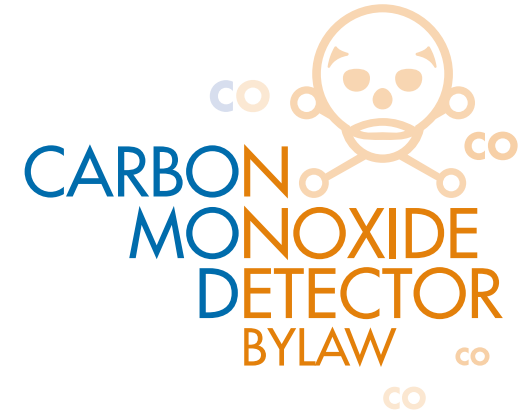
**8. Every person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence, and upon conviction, is liable to a fine of not more than \$5,000 exclusive of costs.**

**9. This Bylaw shall come into force on March 1, 2000.**

**10. If a court of competent jurisdiction declares any provision, or any part of a provision of this Bylaw to be invalid, or to be of no force and effect, it is the intention of the Council in enacting this Bylaw that each and every other provision of this Bylaw be applied and enforced in accordance with its terms to the extent possible according to law.**

**11. The short title of this Bylaw is the "Carbon Monoxide Detector Bylaw."**

This brochure has been produced for your information, so that you and your family can protect yourselves against accidental carbon monoxide poisoning.



For further information on the City of Mississauga's Carbon Monoxide Detector Bylaw or carbon monoxide please contact:

Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services Public Education Unit at  
**(905) 615-4377**

Emergency Calls  
**911**

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