

5.6 CO Alarm Response



City of Oak Point Department of Public Safety Fire Department

TITLE: CO Alarm Response

SECTION/TOPIC: General Operations

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APPROVED BY:

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These SOPs/SOGs are based on FEMA guidelines FA-197

1.0 PURPOSE

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for incidents involving carbon monoxide alarms. Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a naturally occurring by-product of incomplete combustion produced from fossil fuels such as gasoline, diesel, natural gas, wood and charcoal. CO is a poisonous gas that is odorless, colorless, and tasteless.

2.0 SCOPE

This SOP/SOG pertains to all personnel in this organization.

3.0 POLICY/GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

Policy:

Upon arrival at any CO investigation, air sampling shall begin prior to entering the structure and continue until the investigation is completed:

- The occupants of the structure shall be interviewed to determine the circumstances involved.
- All areas of the structure shall be monitored for CO.

- If the structure has been ventilated or appliances turned off prior to the arrival, an attempt should be made to recreate the conditions that prompted the CO investigation. Allow restarted appliance at least a 15-minute warm up period prior to monitoring activities.

CO reading is between 1 and 9 ppm, prior to ventilation:

- The occupants should be advised that the readings are within acceptable levels.

CO reading is between 10 and 35 ppm, prior to ventilation:

- Advise the occupants that the CO level is unusually high and that they need to exit the structure until the source of CO is found
- Begin investigative procedures to identify the source. If the source of the CO level is found to be a gas appliance, shut off the gas to that appliance and advise the occupants to contact a qualified service representative prior to turning the appliance back on.
- Standard ventilation procedures should be used in order to return the atmosphere within the structure to acceptable CO levels of between 0 and 9 ppm. If forced air ventilation is needed to accomplish this task, an electric powered fan is the appliance of choice for mechanically removing the CO from the structure.

CO reading is 36 ppm or greater prior to ventilation

- Advise the occupants that a dangerous level of CO is present and that they need to exit the structure until the source of the CO is found.
- If, during the investigation, the CO reading is > 36 ppm, the structure is to be completely evacuated.
- The OIC shall then request additional personnel for assistance.
- Personnel who reenter the structure to continue the investigation will be an entry team of at least two (2) firefighters in full PPE and SCBA.
- A backup team of two (2) firefighters, in full PPE, will be staged at the entrance to the structure.
- If the source of the high CO level is found to be a gas appliance, shut off the gas to that appliance and
- Advise the occupants to contact qualified representative prior to turning the appliance back on.

- Standard ventilation procedures should be implemented as stated above.

If, at any time during the investigation, the occupants exhibit symptoms of CO poisoning or request medical aid, the OIC shall request an MICU if one was not originally dispatched. It is important to remember that CO is lethal in high doses over a short period of time or in small doses over a long period of time.

If source cannot be found and CO levels remain elevated or the Gas service has been shut off, contact Gas Company for response.