



# Amherst County Fire/EMS

## Standard Operating Guidelines

Subject:	Carbon Monoxide Alarm/Leak
Reference Number:	
Effective Date:	May 1, 2025
Revision Date:	N/A
Signature of Approval:	Chief of Fire/EMS

**Purpose:** Establish a standardized response plan for carbon monoxide alarms and/or suspected carbon monoxide leaks

**Dangers/Hazards:** Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that may result in sudden, severe illness and/or death if presence is not detected and proper PPE not utilized.

### Procedures:

- *Evacuate*
  - o Dispatch shall advise caller and occupants to evacuate building prior to FD arrival. If unable to evacuate, shall instruct to open all doors/windows.
- *Assess Occupants*
  - o Upon arrival on scene, personnel shall ensure all occupants are evacuated and accounted for. Personnel shall interview and assess occupants for signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning. If either are present, EMS shall be requested for evaluation and treatment.
- *Identify Sources*
  - o Personnel shall attempt to identify the source of CO, such as a running vehicle in the garage, a generator, or an appliance that uses fossil fuels. If possible, the source should be shut off/secured from the outside.
- *Monitor*
  - o Personnel shall use a multi-gas detector or CO gas monitor to establish presence of CO and measure CO level.
- *Ventilate*
  - o If CO levels are 35 parts per million (ppm) or above, as measured by gas monitor, personnel shall immediately begin ventilation and don SCBA.

- *Use of a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)*
  - o Personnel shall continue use of SCBA until carbon monoxide readings are below 35ppm.
- *Advise Occupants*
  - o Personnel shall advise the occupants of their findings and whether it is safe to re-enter the building. Gas utility may be contacted, as needed.

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