HB

351

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)
Date Referred to Committee: January 26, 2004 **FURTHER REFERRALS:**

Date of Committee Action: 2/26/04

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered: **HB 351**

HOUSE BILL NO. 351 **CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTION DEVICES**

"An Act relating to the devices, including carbon monoxide detection devices, required in dwellings; and providing for an effective date."

Recommends it be replaced with [ ] HCS *or* [✓] CS for HB 351 (STA)
For Senate Bills with new title: [ ] Technical Title [ ] New Title: HCR_____ **[ ] Same Title [ ] New Title**

[ ] attach amendments
[ ] add new referral to _____Committee
[ ] Letter of Intent_____Committee

List of Abbrev for Depts.:
ADM
CED
COR
CRT
EED
DEC
DFG
GOV
IISS
LEG
LAW
LWF
MVA
DNR
DPS
REV
DOT
UA

***NEW* FISCAL NOTES**
*Assigned by Chief Clerk's Office

List by Dept(s):	*FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero
LAW				✓
DPS				✓

***PREVIOUS* FISCAL NOTES**

List by Dept(s):	FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero
HSS	1			✓

Signing with recommendations	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
	Gruenberg	—			
Paul R Seaton	SEATON	✓			
	HOLM			✓	
	LYNN	X			
John Coghill	Coghill		—		
				✓	
Chair:	Weyhrauch			X	
Chair:					

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: HB351-LAW-C&FB-1-20-
Bill Version: HB 351
() Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: LAW
Title "An Act relating to carbon monoxide detection devices..."
RDU Civil
Component Commercial & Fair Business
Sponsor Representatives Gatto & Gruenberg
Requester House Labor & Commerce
Component No.

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: 0.0
Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2005 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

This bill amends AS 18.70 by requiring that carbon monoxide detection devices be installed and maintained in all qualifying dwelling units in the state.

Passage of this legislation will not have a foreseeable fiscal impact on the Department of Law.

Prepared by: Kathryn A. Daughhetee, Director
Phone 465-3673
Division Administrative Services
Date/Time 1/20/04 5:03 PM
Approved by: Kathryn Daughhetee for Gregg D. Renkes, Attorney General
Date 1/20/2004
Agency Department of Law

(Revised 12/2003 OMB)

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:
Bill Version: HB351-DPS-FP-1-20-04
() Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: Public Safety
Title: Carbon Monoxide Detection Devices
RDU: Fire Prevention
Component: Fire Prev. Operations
Sponsor: Rep. Gatto
Requester: House Labor & Commerce
Component No.: 494

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: 0.0
Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2005 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time		0	0	0	0	0
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

The bill requires carbon monoxide detectors to be installed in all "qualifying" dwelling units in the state.

HB 351 will have minimal fiscal impact to the Fire Prevention program. There will be a slight increase in responsibilities for building plan review for compliance in 4-plex and larger dwelling units.

Prepared by: Gary Powell, Director — Phone 269-5491
Division: Fire Prevention — Date/Time 1/20/04 10:05 AM
Approved by: Commissioner William Tandeske — Date 1/20/2004
Agency: Department of Public Safety

(Revised 12/2003 OMB)

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Official Business

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Representative Carl Gatto **Representative Max Gruenberg**

SPONSOR STATEMENT

CSHB 351 (Labor & Commerce)
Carbon Monoxide Detection Devices

The recent deaths of an Anchorage family from carbon monoxide poisoning in their home has prompted introduction of House Bill 351 that will require carbon monoxide detectors to be installed and maintained in most Alaskan homes. This bill adds carbon monoxide detection devices to the requirement in Alaska state statute (AS 18.70.095) that homeowners install and maintain smoke detectors and adds that landlords shall install the devices to be maintained by their tenants.

According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, carbon monoxide poisoning is the leading cause of accidental poisoning in America annually, claiming the lives of 1,500-2,000 people in the United States and hospitalizing an additional 10,000. Also, continuous exposure to low levels of carbon monoxide can compromise the efficiency of young children's brains in processing information.

Carbon monoxide detectors are essential because carbon monoxide is invisible to the human senses—it is odorless, tasteless, colorless, and non-irritating. Without a carbon monoxide alarm, one doesn't know they're being poisoned.

Representatives Carl Gatto and Max Gruenberg have co-introduced this bill in order to help save Alaskan lives and to prevent long-term illnesses in children.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: HB 351
() Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: HESS
Title: Carbon Monoxide Detection Devices
BRU
Component
Sponsor: Gatto
Requester: House L & C Committee
Component No.

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: 0.0
Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2005 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

This bill has no fiscal impact.

Prepared by:
Division
Phone
Date/Time 1/21/04 1:51 PM
Approved by:
Agency
Date 1/21/2004

(Revised 9/2003 OMB)

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State of Alaska
Department of Public Safety
Division of
Fire Prevention

Frank H. Murkowski, Governor
William Tandeske, Commissioner

Testimony to HB 351 January 23, 2004

I was asked to provide help on sections 1(a), 4(d)(3)(A), and provide an explanation of how our office promoted the smoke detector law throughout the state in 1984.

HB 351

Section 1(a). Issue: Address the requirement of installing carbon monoxide detectors in all hotel and motel rooms.

Discussion: 1. There is no data that supports the evidence of loss of life or injury in hotels or motels from carbon monoxide. There are no exceptions to address hotels and motels that have carbon based fuel systems but heat their rooms by an indirect method such as hydronic in-floor or baseboard hot water.

Discussion: 2. Section 4(d)(1) defines Dwelling Unit according to A.S. 34.03.360. It is my opinion this definition only approaches "homes" and does not address hotels and motels (There are some exceptions). Carbon monoxide detectors, unlike smoke detectors, are not addressed in
the building code. When the smoke detector law was put into place it was written to address those locations that the building code did not cover. As written, hotels and motels would require additional language in this legislation to be addressed because the requirement is not identified in the building or fire code. We generally support the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in hotels and motels that utilize carbon-based fuel but have no data to document the loss of life or injury as we can in single or multiple unit dwellings.

Section 4(d)(3)(A). Issue: Address the inclusion of all fuel types that emit carbon monoxide.

Proposal: contains or is serviced by a carbon based fueled appliance or device that produces by-products of combustion.

Discussion: This change in wording incorporates all fuel types that can produce carbon monoxide and eliminates any product, device or fuel type loophole.

Implementation discussion: When the smoke detector requirement was written into law the Division of Fire Prevention sent out mailers, had contests, spoke at community functions and traveled the state to educate the public on the benefits and requirements of installing smoke detectors in their homes. Fortunately today we have more efficient methodologies to "get the word out" without all the associated costs of the past.

Under the existing budget and time constraints the Division of Fire Prevention would maximize the use of public safety announcements and press releases through the department's Public Information Office. Other sources, such as media interviews and free brochures from federal, private and manufacturer's sources for public distribution are already available. Additionally, local fire departments, private business partnerships and the use of the internet would be used to educate the public. The Division of fire prevention would work with other state agencies to identify potential grant programs and resources to address the new requirement and address the selection, placement and maintenance of the detectors through the manufacture's recommendations. Availability and variety of the carbon monoxide detectors should increase dramatically as market conditions respond to the public's increase in demand.

Other considerations: Enforcement of the new law will be problematic if not impossible by the Division of Fire Prevention or local authorities in deferred jurisdictions. The bill is directed toward private homes and tenant spaces. A person's home is their castle, although we can ask to check if an appropriate carbon monoxide detector has been placed in the home, access can be denied.

I believe that fiduciary requirements and insurance carriers will carry greater impetus to install these detectors, once adopted as law, than any regulatory agency.

Kelly Nicolello
Assistant State Fire Marshal

Municipality of Anchorage

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Mark Begich, Mayor

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Administration
100 East Fourth Avenue
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The Anchorage Fire Department is in support of House Bill No.351, "An Act relating to the devices. Including carbon monoxide detection devices, required in dwelling; and providing for an effective date."

Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless, invisible gas produced when fossil fuels do not burn completely, or are exposed to heat (usually fire). These fuels include wood, coal, charcoal, natural gas, gasoline, kerosene and propane. Electrical appliances typically do not produce CO.

The Anchorage Fire Department finds that a properly installed and operating Carbon Monoxide detector is an excellent means of protection from the dangers of CO poisoning because it monitors the air and sounds a loud alarm before Carbon Monoxide levels become threatening for average, healthy adults. This allows precious time to leave a dwelling and correct the problem before CO levels become life threatening. CO being invisible, odorless and tasteless is not easily detected by means other than a properly installed and operating detector.

The Anchorage Fire Department also recommends that smoke detectors as well as CO detectors should be installed on each level of a dwelling, in each bedroom of the dwelling and in hallways connecting such areas. This vital warning equipment has a limited life and do require testing for proper operation on a regular basis.

Thomas G. Kempton
Deputy Fire Chief, Information Officer
Anchorage Fire Department

Alaska CO Incidents

March 27, 2003

Evacuations, Rescues, CPR, 911; Citizens Honored for Lifesaving Acts
"Jean Schulte and Ron Harper, who evacuated 3 people suffering from serious carbon monoxide poisoning from an Anchorage house in December 2002."
-Anchorage Daily News

December 17, 2002

Headlines – Anchorage - Carbon monoxide injures 3
"Three people were rushed to the hospital Monday afternoon for carbon monoxide poisoning, the second such incident in Anchorage in less than a week. The three people were discovered inside 9203 Campbell Terrace Drive around noon by an employer who had gone to the home because on of the people had not shown up to work, said Anchorage Fire Department spokesman, Tom Kempton. All 3 individuals were incoherent and disoriented, he said. A cracked heat exchanger in a furnace is believed to be the cause of the carbon monoxide leak."
-Anchorage Daily News

December 13, 2002

6 Saved From Gas Poisoning
"Six people, including 3 children, were rescued early Thursday morning after a 911 dispatcher realized a caller and her family were suffering carbon monoxide poisoning during the call, fire officials said." -Anchorage Daily News

Consumer Product Safety Commission

Carbon Monoxide Questions and Answers

CPSC Document #466

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1. **What is carbon monoxide (CO) and how is it produced in the home?**

   Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. It is produced by the incomplete burning of solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels. Appliances fueled with natural gas, liquified petroleum (LP gas), oil, kerosene, coal, or wood may produce CO. Burning charcoal produces CO. Running cars produce CO.

2. **How many people are unintentionally poisoned by CO?**

   Every year, over 200 people in the United States die from CO produced by fuel-burning appliances (furnaces, ranges, water heaters, room heaters). Others die from CO produced while burning charcoal inside a home, garage, vehicle or tent. Still others die from CO produced by cars left running in attached garages. Several thousand people go to hospital emergency rooms for treatment for CO poisoning.

3. **What are the symptoms of CO poisoning?**

   The initial symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever). They include:

   - Headache
   - Fatigue
   - Shortness of breath
   - Nausea
   - Dizziness

   Many people with CO poisoning mistake their symptoms for the flu or are misdiagnosed by physicians, which sometimes results in tragic deaths.

4. **What should you do to prevent CO poisoning?**

   - Make sure appliances are installed according to manufacturer's instructions and local building codes. Most appliances should be installed by professionals. Have the heating system (including chimneys and vents) inspected and serviced annually. The inspector should also check chimneys and flues for blockages, corrosion, partial and complete disconnections, and loose connections.
   - Install a CO detector/alarm that meets the requirements of the current UL standard 2034 or the requirements of the IAS 6-96 standard. A carbon monoxide detector/alarm can provide added protection, but is no substitute for proper use and upkeep of appliances that can produce CO. Install a CO detector/alarm in the hallway near every separate sleeping area of the home. Make sure the detector cannot be covered up by furniture or draperies.
   - 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 leave a car running in an attached garage, even with the garage door open.
   - Never service fuel-burning appliances without proper knowledge, skills, and tools. Always refer to the owner's manual when performing minor adjustments or servicing fuel-burning appliances.
   - Never use gas appliances such as ranges, ovens, or clothes dryers for heating your home.
   - Never operate unvented fuel-burning appliances in any room with closed doors or windows or in any

room where people are sleeping.

- Do not use gasoline-powered tools and engines indoors. If use is unavoidable, ensure that adequate ventilation is available and whenever possible place engine unit to exhaust outdoors.

5. **What CO level is dangerous to your health?**

   The health effects of CO depend on the level of CO and length of exposure, as well as each individual's health condition. The concentration of CO is measured in parts per million (ppm). Health effects from exposure to CO levels of approximately 1 to 70 ppm are uncertain, but most people will not experience any symptoms. Some heart patients might experience an increase in chest pain. As CO levels increase and remain above 70 ppm, symptoms may become more noticeable (headache, fatigue, nausea). As CO levels increase above 150 to 200 ppm, disorientation, unconsciousness, and death are possible.

6. **What should you do if you are experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning?**

   If you think you are experiencing any of the symptoms of CO poisoning, get fresh air immediately. Open windows and doors for more ventilation, turn off any combustion appliances, and leave the house. Call your fire department and report your symptoms. You could lose consciousness and die if you do nothing. It is also important to contact a doctor immediately for a proper diagnosis. Tell your doctor that you suspect CO poisoning is causing your problems. Prompt medical attention is important if you are experiencing any symptoms of CO poisoning when you are operating fuel-burning appliances. Before turning your fuel-burning appliances back on, make sure a qualified serviceperson checks them for malfunction.

7. **What has changed in CO detectors/alarms recently?**

   CO detectors/alarms always have been and still are designed to alarm before potentially life-threatening levels of CO are reached. The UL standard 2034 (1998 revision) has stricter requirements that the detector/alarm must meet before it can sound. As a result, the possibility of nuisance alarms is decreased.

8. **What should you do when the CO detector/alarm sounds?**

   Never ignore an alarming CO detector/alarm. If the detector/alarm sounds: Operate the reset button. Call your emergency services (fire department or 911). Immediately move to fresh air -- outdoors or by an open door/window.

9. **How should a consumer test a CO detector/alarm to make sure it is working?**

   Consumers should follow the manufacturer's instructions. Using a test button, some detectors/alarms test whether the circuitry as well as the sensor which senses CO is working, while the test button on other detectors only tests whether the circuitry is working. For those units which test the circuitry only, some manufacturers sell separate test kits to help the consumer test the CO sensor inside the alarm.

10. **What is the role of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) in preventing CO poisoning?**

    CPSC worked closely with Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to help develop the safety standard (UL 2034) for CO detectors/alarms. CPSC helps promote carbon monoxide safety awareness to raise awareness of CO hazards and the need for regular maintenance of fuel-burning appliances. CPSC recommends that every home have a CO detector/alarm that meets the requirements of the most recent UL standard 2034 or the IAS 6-96 standard in the hallway near every separate sleeping area. CPSC also works with industry to develop voluntary and mandatory standards for fuel-burning appliances.

11. **Do some cities require that CO detectors/alarms be installed?**

    On September 15, 1993, Chicago, Illinois became one of the first cities in the nation to adopt an

ordinance requiring, effective October 1, 1994, the installation of CO detectors/alarms in all new single-family homes and in existing single-family residences that have new oil or gas furnaces. Several other cities also require CO detectors/alarms in apartment buildings and single-family dwellings.

12. **Should CO detectors/alarms be used in motor homes and other recreational vehicles?**

CO detectors/alarms are available for boats and recreational vehicles and should be used. The Recreation Vehicle Industry Association requires CO detectors/alarms in motor homes and in towable recreational vehicles that have a generator or are prepped for a generator.

Send the link for this page to a friend! Consumers can obtain this publication and additional publication information from the Publications section of CPSC's web site or by sending your publication request to info@cpsc.gov.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. Deaths, injuries and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than $700 billion annually. The CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard or can injure children. The CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals - contributed significantly to the 30 percent decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270, or visit CPSC's web site at www.cpsc.gov/talk.html. Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions About Carbon Monoxide Detectors

What is carbon monoxide (CO) and why do I need a carbon monoxide detector?

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless and toxic gas produced as a by-product of combustion. Any fuel burning appliance, vehicle, tool or other device has the potential to produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide gas. Examples of carbon monoxide producing devices commonly in use around the home include:

- Fuel fired furnaces (non-electric)
- Gas water heaters
- Fireplaces and woodstoves
- Gas stoves
- Gas dryers
- Charcoal grills
- Lawnmowers, snowblowers and other yard equipment
- Automobiles

The Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that approximately 200 people per year are killed by accidental CO poisoning with an additional 5000 people injured. These deaths and injuries are typically caused by improperly used or malfunctioning equipment aggravated by improvements in building construction which limit the amount of fresh air flowing in to homes and other structures.

While regular maintenance and inspection of gas burning equipment in the home can minimize the potential for exposure to CO gas, the possibility for some type of sudden failure resulting in a potentially life threatening build up of gas always exists.

What are the medical effects of carbon monoxide and how do I recognize them?

Carbon monoxide inhibits the blood's ability to carry oxygen to body tissues including vital organs such as the heart and brain. When CO is inhaled, it combines with the oxygen carrying hemoglobin of the blood to form carboxyhemoglobin. Once combined with the hemoglobin, that hemoglobin is no longer available for transporting oxygen. How quickly the carboxyhemoglobin builds up is a factor of the concentration of the gas being inhaled (measured in parts per million or PPM) and the duration of the exposure. Compounding the effects of the exposure is the long half-life of carboxyhemoglobin in the blood. Half-life is a measure of how quickly levels return to normal. The half-life of carboxyhemoglobin is approximately 5 hours. This means that for a given exposure level, it will take about 5 hours for the level of carboxyhemoglobin in the blood to drop to half its current level after the exposure is terminated.

The following table describes the symptoms associated with a given concentration of COHb:

% COHb	Symptoms and Medical Consequences
10%	No symptoms. Heavy smokers can have as much as 9% COHb.
15%	Mild headache.
25%	Nausea and serious headache. Fairly quick recovery after treatment with oxygen and/or fresh air.
30%	Symptoms intensify. Potential for long term effects especially in the case of infants, children, the elderly, victims of heart disease and pregnant women.
45%	Unconsciousness.
50%+	Death.

Since one can't easily measure COHb levels outside of a medical environment, CO toxicity levels are usually expressed in airborne concentration levels (PPM) and duration of exposure. Expressed in this way, symptoms of exposure can be stated as follows:

PPM CO	Time	Symptoms
35 PPM	8 hours	Maximum exposure allowed by OSHA in the workplace over an eight hour period.
200 PPM	2-3 hours	Mild headache, fatigue, nausea and dizziness.
400 PPM	1-2 hours	Serious headache- other symptoms intensify. Life threatening after 3 hours.
800 PPM	45 minutes	Dizziness, nausea and convulsions. Unconscious within 2 hours. Death within 2-3 hours.
1600 PPM	20 minutes	Headache, dizziness and nausea. Death within 1 hour.
3200 PPM	5-10 minutes	Headache, dizziness and nausea. Death within 1 hour.
6400 PPM	1-2 minutes	Headache, dizziness and nausea. Death within 25-30 minutes.
12,800 PPM	1-3 minutes	Death.

As can be seen from the above information, the symptoms vary widely based on exposure level, duration and the general health and age on an individual. Also note the one recurrent theme that is most

significant in the recognition of carbon monoxide poisoning- headache, dizziness and nausea. These 'flu like' symptoms are often mistaken for a real case of the flu and can result in delayed or misdiagnosed treatment. When experienced in conjunction with a the sounding of a carbon monoxide these symptoms are the best indicator that a potentially serious buildup of carbon monoxide exists. This comment will be returned to later.

What are the different types of carbon monoxide detectors and how do they work?

There are a number of different types and brands of carbon monoxide detectors on the market today; They can be most easily characterized by whether they operate on household current or batteries. Underlying this, in most cases, is the type of sensor employed in the detectors operation. Detectors using household current typically employ some type of solid-state sensor which purges itself and resamples for CO on a periodic basis. This cycling of the sensor is the source of its increased power demands. Detectors powered by batteries typically use a passive sensor technology which reacts to the prolonged exposure to carbon monoxide gas.

Are some types of detectors better than others? How do I select the best detector for me?

Regardless of the type of sensor used all detectors sold on the market today should conform to minimum sensitivity and alarm characteristics. These characteristics have been defined and are verified by Underwriters Laboratory in their standard for carbon monoxide detectors UL 2034. This standard was most recently revised in June of 1995 and went into effect in October of 1995. This revision specified additional requirements regarding identification of detector type, low-level (nuisance) alarm sensitivity and alarm silencing. Under no circumstances should one purchase a detector that is not UL listed.

Each of the two types of detectors mentioned previously has applications in the home along with associated advantages and disadvantages. The proper detector for each application or installation should be chosen based on the application requirements and the products specifications. The following are the principle advantages and disadvantages of the two different type detectors:

Characteristic	*Household Current*	*Battery Operated*
Cost	$30-50	$30-50
Ease of Installation	More difficult- requires outlet near detector or 'hard wiring'.	Less difficult. Can be placed anywhere needed.
Maintenance	No maintenance required during life of product (5-10 years). Detector sensor becomes more sensitive with age.	Requires periodic replacement of battery/sensor module every 2-3 years at a cost of ~$20.
Reaction Time/Exposure	Gives continuous display	Reaction time depends

Level Display	of CO levels updated every few minutes.	on concentration level and duration of exposure. Display information is limited.
Reset Time	Will reset immediately once CO problem is corrected.	Reset time depends on exposure concentration and duration. May require removal of sensor pack. A silence button, however, is now provided/required.

How many carbon monoxide detectors should I have and where should I place them?

The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends a detector on each floor of a residence. At a minimum, a single detector should be placed on each sleeping floor with an additional detector in the area of any major gas burning appliances such as a furnace or water heater. Installation in these areas ensures rapid detection of any potentially malfunctioning appliances and the ability to hear the alarm from all sleeping areas. In general, carbon monoxide detectors should be placed high (near the ceiling) for most effective use. Detectors should also not be placed within five feet of gas fueled appliances or near cooking or bathing areas. Consult the manufacturers installation instructions for proper placement of a detector within a given area.

What are the most common causes of carbon monoxide detector alarms?

There are many conditions which can cause a carbon monoxide detector to alarm. Most are preventable and few are actually life threatening. Ideally through proper placement of the detector and education of the users the number of preventable calls can be minimized and activation will only occur in the more serious situations.

Preventable causes of CO alarm activation and the recommended preventive action are as follows:

Cause	*Preventive Action*
Inadequate fresh air venting of the home.	Have a heating contractor install a fresh air makeup system in the home
Running gas powered equipment or automobiles in a home or garage	Gas powered equipment or vehicles should never be operated within a home or garage- even if the garage door is open. Since most homes are typically at a lower pressure relative to outside air, the gas can

	actually be drawn into the home.
Charcoal grilling in the home or garage.	Charcoal grilling is a tremendous producer of carbon monoxide gas. Charcoal grills should never be operated in the home.
Malfunctioning appliances or equipment in the home.	All fuel burning appliances or equipment in the home needs periodic inspection and preventive maintenance. While all fuel burning appliances will produce some CO gas, regular preventive maintenance can keep this to a minimum.
Malfunctioning or overly sensitive alarm.	Buy only UL Listed alarms conforming to the latest revision (June 1995) of UL standard 2034. This revision includes new requirements to minimize nuisance alarms.

While many causes can be prevented others can not and may occur unpredictably. Not only are these problems harder to predict but they also tend to be more serious in nature. Examples of these type problems are:

- Cracked furnace heat exchanger.
- Malfunctioning furnace or water heater.
- Blocked chimney.
- Other unpredictable events- vehicle left running in garage, gas powered device placed near fresh air vent to home, etc.

Minimizing preventable events allows everyone to take other less preventable and predictable events more seriously.

What should I do when my carbon monoxide detector goes off?

First and foremost, stay calm. As mentioned previously most situations resulting in activation of a carbon monoxide detector are not life threatening and do not require calling 911. To determine the need to call 911, ask the following question of everyone in the household:

> "Does anyone feel ill? Is anyone experiencing the 'flu-like' symptoms of headache, nausea or dizziness?"

If the answer to the above by anyone in the household is true, evacuate the household to a safe location and have someone call 911. Failure to evacuate immediately may result in prolonged exposure and worsening effects from possible carbon monoxide gas. The best initial treatment for carbon monoxide gas exposure is fresh air.

If the answer to the above by everyone in the household is no, the likelihood of a serious exposure is greatly diminished and one probably does not need to call 911. Instead, turn off any gas burning appliances or equipment, ventilate the area and attempt to reset the alarm. If the alarm will not reset or resounds, call a qualified heating and ventilating service contractor to inspect your system for possible problems. If at any time during this process someone begins to feel ill with the symptoms described above evacuate the household to a safe location and have someone call 911.

What can I expect to happen if I call 911?

What to expect when calling 911 is based on the polices and procedures of the public safety agencies serving your community and will vary from area to area. Most public safety agencies are, however, recognizing the dangers posed by carbon monoxide gas and are adopting similar procedures to the ones described below. These procedures are based on information developed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and other national and regional associations. The objective of these procedures is to quickly determine the severity of the situation and provide the proper emergency response. The following is a summary of what one can expect to happen if the call 911 because a carbon monoxide detector is sounding:

When initially calling 911 be prepared to provide the following information:

- Your address.
- The type of detector that is sounding.
- Whether or not anyone is feeling ill with 'flu-like' symptoms as previously described.
- Whether or not everyone has evacuated the residence.
- The reading on the detector (if known or available)

The dispatcher will determine the response required based on the answers to the above- most significantly whether or not anyone is feeling ill.

If anyone is feeling ill and/or you can not or have not been able to evacuate everyone, law enforcement, medical and fire personnel will be assigned to the call on an emergency basis. Law enforcement to assist with the immediate evacuation of individuals, medical to treat any victims and fire to monitor for CO gas and assist with the other activities.

If no one is feeling ill, you may be advised to contact your local heating contractor or gas company to assist you or, more likely, fire personnel will be dispatched on a routine basis to monitor for CO gas and advise if a 'real' carbon monoxide problem exists.

As mentioned previously, response policies vary by community and you may wish to call your local fire or police non-emergency number to ask what their particular policies are. An example standard operating procedure for CO alarms is attached. This policy is based on the IAFC model procedures and has been adopted by the Hennepin County Fire Chiefs Association as their 'standard' policy for fire departments which are part of that association.

Where can I get further information concerning carbon monoxide detectors?

Several manufacturers of carbon monoxide detectors offer toll free numbers for additional information regarding their products. These numbers are as follows:

Manufacturer	*Number*
American Sensors	800-387-4219
Enzone	800-448-0535
First Alert	800-323-9005
Jameson	800-779-1719
Nighthawk	800-880-6788
Quantum	800-432-5599
Radio Shack	Contact your local store
S-Tech	800-643-5377

Additional information with product ratings is contained in the July 1995 Consumer Reports issue on home safety products. One word of note regarding the ratings in this issue- the products tested have probably since be replaced by updated models conforming to the revised UL 2034 standard which took effect in October 1995. Check with the manufacturer for current information.

This information provided as a public service by the Hamel Volunteer Fire Department.
Comments or questions concerning this document should be directed to:
H. Brandon Guest, Chief
Hamel Volunteer Fire Department
92 Hamel Road
Hamel, Minnesota 55340
(612) 723-5400
guestb@freenet.msp.mn.us
URL=http://freenet.msp.mn.us/people/guestb

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO): THE SILENT KILLER

HISTORY OF CO LEGISLATION

1992: The first U.S. city to adopt a law requiring CO alarms was Kingston, New York. The law was adopted November 10, 1992.

1994: In March of 1994, the City of Chicago became the second and largest U.S. municipality to enact a CO alarm law.

1998: In 1998, West Virginia became the first state to adopt a statewide CO alarm law.

2002: Rhode Island enacted a statewide CO law in the year 2002.

2003: New York and New Jersey enacted statewide carbon monoxide laws in the spring of 2003.

Present: Current states working to pass statewide CO legislation include Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

CO FACTS

- Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America, claiming more than 2,100 lives per year, according to a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.
- CO accounts for 40,000 emergency room visits and 20,000 health-related injuries annually, according to the American Association of Poison Control Centers. **Yet according to safety industry estimates, 88 percent of homes remain unprotected because they do not have at least one CO alarm.**
- CO is known as the "Silent Killer" since it is invisible to the human senses. It is odorless, tasteless, colorless and non-irritating, so without a CO alarm's warning there is no way to know that you are being poisoned. CO mimics the flu or food poisoning and symptoms include headache, nausea, fatigue and dizziness.
- In fact, studies performed at the University of Illinois Hospital at Chicago found that five to ten percent of patients presented to the emergency room with flu-like symptoms actually had CO poisoning.
- CO is a by-product of combustion produced by common household appliances such as gas or oil furnaces, water heaters, space heaters and clothes dryers. Other potential sources include barbecue grills, fireplaces, wood-burning stoves, gas ovens and fumes entering a home from an attached garage.
- Once in the bloodstream, CO suffocates the body from the inside out, preventing life-sustaining oxygen from reaching vital organs in the body such as the brain and heart.
- The level of exposure to carbon monoxide and the amount of damage done is greater in children than adults. For example an adult breathes 12 times within a minute, while a child will take 20-30 breaths during that same time. If carbon monoxide is present, the child is metabolizing more of the deadly gas at a faster pace, resulting in a more severe poisoning.

- Children, infants and the unborn cannot articulate pain or other symptoms associated with carbon monoxide poisoning, which often prolongs their exposure and increases their risk for serious injuries and death. Effects of exposure can include brain damage, heart defects, cerebral palsy and death.

EXPERT TESTIMONIALS

Bill Webb
Executive Director, Congressional Fire Services Institute
"There's a mantra in the fire service that saving lives starts with prevention. We have seen that with smoke detectors. By installing smoke detectors we have saved thousands of lives. We can do the same if we install carbon monoxide detectors."

Assemblyman Joseph Morelle (D)
Irondequoit, New York – Sponsored a statewide CO law that went into effect in March of 2003.
"We have evidence from other places including the cities of Chicago and St. Louis, that CO laws have helped reduce fatalities in those communities. We have a great example here, as smoke alarm laws were enacted, more of these life safety devices went into homes and death rates from fire have declined. It's time now to look at carbon monoxide alarms the same way."

Steve Gladstone,
President-elect, American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI)
"If people don't have a carbon monoxide detector in their house, at almost any point in the life of their equipment, it can fail and it can become a lethal environment. So if they don't have a carbon monoxide detector, they won't know and they could die in that environment. We're talking about a small investment, and god forbid something terrible happens, you'll never forgive yourself for the rest of your life."

Dr. Jerrold B. Leikin
Director of Medical Toxicology, Evanston Northwestern Healthcare-OMEGA
"Carbon monoxide has no odor, and is not irritating at all, and targets the brain for its poisoning capabilities, so that you can be overcome by carbon monoxide and not even know it...carbon monoxide detectors are just like seat belts and motorcycle helmets in that they save lives. And especially they save lives from traumatic accidents that can occur all of a sudden with nobody in the household knowing they've been exposed to these deadly gases."

Hal and Kathy Ketofsky
Carbon Monoxide Survivor Family, New Jersey
"I used to feel the same way most people feel about carbon monoxide – unconcerned. But I have a different opinion now. It's clear that the difference between life and death is as simple as having an alarm and not having one."

PREVENTION

The Consumer Product Safety Commission and the International Association of Fire Chiefs recommend every home have at least one carbon monoxide alarm with an audible warning signal installed near sleep areas.

For more information about carbon monoxide, contact the Our Children at Risk Task Force at 1-877-COFACTS.

Municipality of
Anchorage

P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650
Telephone: (907) 343-4431
Fax: (907) 343-4499
Email : www.muni.org

Mark Begich, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 15, 2003
2003-46

Contact: Julie Hasquet
343-7103

DONORS FUND CO DETECTORS FOR AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

$31,000 raised buys carbon monoxide detectors for low income families

Mayor Mark Begich announced today that through the support of several local companies and organizations, $31,000 has been raised to purchase 1,140 carbon monoxide detectors for distribution to low and moderate income families.

The Mayor's office launched a fundraising effort last week following the deaths of an Anchorage family poisoned by carbon monoxide. All five members of the Arts family died after the accidental poisoning in their home on Dec. 6.

"As we grieve the deaths of the Arts family, we have reached out to the community and they are responding," said Mayor Begich. "While this CO detector giveaway cannot take away our pain, we can raise awareness about this deadly gas and how we can prevent future tragedies."

The companies and organizations who have given financial donations to the awareness campaign include Allstate, BP Exploration, ConocoPhillips, Enstar, Tote, Horizon Lines, the Anchorage Homebuilders Association, the Anchorage Police Department Employees Association, and the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1264.

The effort has also been greatly supported by the American Red Cross of Alaska, Home Depot, which has offered the detectors at cost, and Federal Express, which is picking up the cost of flying the large order of CO detectors to Anchorage from Fresno, California.

According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, carbon monoxide poisoning claims the lives of 1,500 to 2,000 people in the United States every year. It is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America, and hospitalizes another 10,000 people annually.

Having a working carbon monoxide detector on every level of a home and in sleeping areas is considered a key part of preventing accidental poisonings.

The carbon monoxide detectors purchased through the fundraising effort will be available to families who need them through the GIFT program in Anchorage this week. Sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Lutheran Social Services, The Salvation Army and the United Way of Anchorage, GIFT is a community outreach event that provides holiday gift and food assistance to thousands of low to moderate income families.

The distribution runs December 17-19 in the ACS Garage at 650 Telephone Ave. The detectors will be available until the supply runs out. The Red Cross office at 235 E 8th Avenue will have a small supply as well.

The shipment of 1,140 carbon monoxide detectors from a Kidde distributor in Fresno is expected to arrive in Anchorage, via Federal Express, on Tuesday.

"I am overwhelmed by the generous spirit of our local companies and organizations," said Mayor Begich. "I would also like to thank our city firefighters, police officers and other emergency personnel who had to respond to this terrible tragedy."

In a separate program, the Municipality's Department of Health and Human Services Weatherization Program provides CO detectors to low income families each year. Priority is given to elderly, the disabled, and families with children under the age of six years. The program is available to both homeowners and renters, and qualifying requires meeting income eligibility guidelines and the home must be inspected.

Funding for the program is provided by The Federal Department of Energy and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. Those who are interested in the Weatherization Program can call 343-6630 for more information.

###

Our Children at Risk Task Force

December 11, 2003

Representative Max F. Gruenberg, Jr.
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear State Representative Gruenberg,

Recently, you and members of your staff requested information on carbon monoxide legislation from the Children At Risk Task Force based on meetings with folks at the National Conference of State Legislators. Hopefully you received the packet of information that included copies of recent state legislation, codes and/or amendments from New York and New Jersey that require carbon monoxide alarms in residential dwellings and that you found it useful.

I personally wanted to give you a heads up that there was an unfortunate carbon monoxide poisoning incident in Anchorage over the weekend in which an entire family was fatally poisoned. One person is still hospitalized from what I recall, but several family members perished, including a few children. Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich is currently conducting a fundraising campaign to solicit donations of CO alarms to donate to low-income families there with the hopes of preventing another CO tragedy. He seems to be very affected by this incident, is very passionate about this issue and may be a great supporter if you are still looking at sponsoring a bill at the state level (note that I haven't spoken with him regarding your interest on this issue). This would also be a solid example in your own backyard that might heighten awareness of the need for CO legislation in Alaska.

If you need further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Laurie Bowser-Sever
Communications Manager
Phone: 919-304-8312

children
RISK

See me

July 10, 2003

Dear NCSL attendee:

Several years ago, I lost two of my three sons, Zachary and Nicholas (16 months and four years of age) to carbon monoxide poisoning from a furnace malfunction that nearly wiped out our entire family. Since the death of my sons, I have become an advocate for the use of carbon monoxide alarms in *all* homes.

Carbon monoxide is known as the "Silent Killer" for a very good reason – you don't know it is there. CO attacks without warning – you can't see it, smell it or taste it and symptoms mimic the flu. CO is the #1 cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the U.S. and accounts for 40,000 emergency room visits, 20,000 health-related injuries and 2,000 deaths annually.

I can assure you that my family was no different than yours or families in your district. We simply didn't know what CO was or that we were at risk. As someone who survived a deadly carbon monoxide incident, I can tell you that you don't know what's happening to you – until it's too late. Only an alarm can alert you to the presence of carbon monoxide before it becomes life threatening.

Carbon monoxide is a natural by-product of combustion in fuel burning appliances. A toxic spill can happen at any time due to a faulty furnace, blocked chimney, cracked vent pipe or clothes dryer with a blocked vent. Electric-only homes are just as susceptible to this household threat because a car left idling in an attached garage, a gas-powered generator used during a power outage or a charcoal grill brought indoors or operated too close to the home can cause hazardous consequences.

Smoke alarm legislation has been successful in reducing the number of fire-related deaths in our communities. Now, it is time to look at carbon monoxide alarms in the same way – as a critical piece of home safety equipment that belongs in every household, rental property and lodging facility.

New York, New Jersey and Rhode Island are three states with laws requiring carbon monoxide alarms in homes, lodging facilities and rental properties. Many other cities and towns have similar requirements. By sponsoring carbon monoxide legislation, you can help your state and its constituents save lives and prevent injuries, especially among younger family members who are at greater risk to carbon monoxide exposure.

Your help is urgently needed *today*! I urge you to stop by booth 837 at the National Conference of State Legislators meeting July 23-25 in San Francisco where members of the Our Children at Risk Task Force, including myself, will be available to discuss the importance of passing carbon monoxide legislation in your state. We can provide model legislation and any additional information you may need to aid in this important effort.

If you'd like further information prior to the conference, please don't hesitate to contact us. I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Burt

Cheryl Burt
Chairperson, Our Children at Risk Task Force

541 N. Fairbanks, Suite 2040 • Chicago, Illinois 60611 • 1-877-COFACTS

NYS Department of State

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 30, 2002

Contact: Theresa Smolen
Assistant Secretary of State
for Public Affairs
(518) 474-4752

New York State Will Enter 2003 With New Fire Prevention, Building Codes in Effect

ALBANY – (December 30, 2002) – Transition Period Ends In December, Codes of New York State Supercede Current Provisions

As New Yorkers ring in the New Year, new fire prevention and building codes will take effect that supercede the existing codes and bring updated technology, products, safety standards and flexibility that will provide a major incentive for new investment, construction and economic development across the state, Governor George E. Pataki today announced.

"New York State will now have a set of requirements that are consistent with the rest of the country," said Governor Pataki. "The new codes will ensure that our homes and workplaces are safe and energy efficient, while spurring development and creating job opportunities across the State."

The new model codes were adopted by a unanimous vote of the State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council in March, culminating a four-year process of reviewing the International Codes and making modifications for New York State in an effort to replace the current outdated code. A 180 day transition period has been in effect since July, during which time the current code or the new code could be used.

"Many building permits submitted during the transition period utilized the new code over the old one. The feedback has been positive and reflects our belief that new codes will not only be easier to comply with and enforce, but will provide an incentive for new investment and economic development as well," said Secretary of State Randy A. Daniels, whose Department oversees Codes Enforcement and Administration.

The Governor directed the Department of State to undertake the code review process in 1998. Since that time, the Code Council established technical subcommittees to review the International Family of Codes, which includes the building, fire, residential, plumbing, mechanical, fuel gas, property maintenance and energy conservation codes.

The adoption of the International Codes also gives New York State a voice in the code development process at the national level. New York State's Code will be updated on a regular schedule consistent with the International Codes three-year cycle.

Secretary Daniels is Chair of the State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council. The Code Council is a 17-member body comprised of representatives from several disciplines, including architects, engineers, builders, trade unions, people with disabilities, fire prevention, local governments and state agencies.

All construction in the state is governed by the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code, which addresses issues such as fire prevention, life safety, structural stability and accommodation for people with disabilities. The code applies to all communities across New York, except New York City which has its own building code. NYC is covered by the energy conservation code, which took effect in July.

###

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION
submitted in accordance with Assembly Rule III, Section 1 (e)

(x) Memo on original draft of bill
() Memo on amended bill

BILL NUMBER: Assembly

Senate

SPONSORS: Member (s) of Assembly: Joseph D. Morelle
Senator (s):

TITLE OF BILL:

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to requiring the installation of carbon monoxide detectors.

PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:

The purpose of this bill is to require the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in multiple dwellings, hotels, motels, and lodging houses.

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS:

Section one would amend subdivision 5-a of section 378 of the executive law by adding multiple dwellings to the type of dwellings that are required to have carbon monoxide detectors installed if the dwelling is constructed or sold after this law takes effect.

Section two of this bill amends subdivision 8 of section 378 of the executive law by adding carbon monoxide detectors as a required device to be installed in hotels, motels and lodging houses. Currently only smoke detectors are required.

Section three would only require such carbon monoxide detectors in dwellings that contain or are serviced by gas-fueled or oil-fueled devices, a wood stove or has an attached garage.

Section 4 sets the effective date.

JUSTIFICATION:

As with smoke detectors/fire alarms many years ago, carbon monoxide detectors have earned the respect of the fire service as a valuable tool in the saving of lives.

Everyone recognizes that carbon monoxide kills if not responded to immediately. The most serious quality of CO_2 is that, unlike smoke, it is virtually undetectable, even when someone is awake and alert. Chapter 257 of the laws of 2002 required carbon monoxide detectors be installed in one and two family dwellings and in condominiums and cooperatives that are constructed or sold in order to prevent the loss of life.

This bill requires multiple dwelling units and hotels, motels and lodging houses to install carbon monoxide detectors as well.

PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

New legislation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

Undetermined.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become law, provided, however, that effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rules or regulations by the secretary of state necessary for the implementation of the foregoing sections of this act on its effective date is authorized and directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.

Rhode Island Association of REALTORS®
State-Wide Multiple Listing Service, Inc.
Online
100 Bignall Street Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS REQUIRED AS OF JANUARY 1, 2002

In 2001, the Rhode Island General Assembly enacted a new law, which will require most new and existing single family homes and other residential properties to be equipped with both a working smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector prior to transfer of the property or issuance of a certificate of occupancy as of January 1, 2002.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

When will the new carbon monoxide detector law go into effect? January 1, 2002.

What properties are covered? The law will apply to existing, occupied single-family homes and other residential buildings which are transferred on or after January 1, 2002. The law will also apply to new single-family homes and other residential buildings with gas utilities which are constructed or converted for residential occupancy on or after January 1, 2002. Residential buildings which are required to have a fire alarm system are exempt.

What kind of carbon monoxide detectors must be installed? Carbon monoxide detector emit an audible signal with a minimum rating of eighty-five decibels at a distance of ten feet and have a "power on" indicator. The detectors must be listed and/or approved by Underwriters Laboratories Inc., Factory Mutual, or some other nationally recognized testing laboratory approved by the state fire marshal and installed according to the manufacturer's specifications.

How expensive are carbon monoxide detectors? Prices typically range from $25 - $70 per detector.

Where must the carbon monoxide detectors be placed? An approved smoke and approved carbon monoxide detector must be installed in the access space immediately adjacent to bedrooms or sleeping rooms, and in bedrooms, or sleeping rooms, which are separated by other use areas, such as kitchens or living rooms, but not bathrooms. If a bedroom opens directly into the kitchen, a smoke detector must be installed in the bedroom, and a carbon monoxide detector must be installed in the kitchen, located in accordance with manufacturer's specifications in relation to fuel burning appliances. All carbon monoxide detectors must be mounted in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.

Who will inspect the carbon monoxide detector? Inspections will be performed by the same department in each town or city which performs smoke detector inspections. Typically, this will be the fire department.

How much will a carbon monoxide detector inspection cost? The cost of a carbon monoxide detector inspection will be $30, which will be the same price as a smoke detector inspection beginning on January 1, 2002. However, a town or city may charge an additional fee of $30 if the detectors must be reinspected due to improper installation, wrong location, improper wiring, or the owner's failure to keep his inspection appointment.

Must a carbon monoxide certificate be recorded? Yes, a carbon monoxide detector certificate must be recorded with the town or city clerk's office in the same way that a smoke detector certificate is recorded.

When must the inspection be completed? The inspection must be completed within sixty days prior to

closing, or, in the case of new construction or conversion to residential occupancy, prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, and the seller must provide the buyer with smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector certificates at the time of the transfer of title.

What happens if inspection does not occur before closing? If the carbon monoxide detector is not inspected prior to closing, the seller may complete an affidavit stating that the real property being conveyed by this instrument had working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors within fourteen days of the date of this instrument, and that an inspection has been requested.

Must the carbon monoxide certificate be recorded? Yes, a carbon monoxide detector certificate must be recorded with the town or city clerk's office in the same way that a smoke detector certificate is recorded.

What responsibility does a real estate broker or salesperson have? The new law requires only the property owner to assume legal responsibility for installing the carbon monoxide detectors and ensuring that they are working.

Where can I get a copy of this law? Members of the Rhode Island Association of REALTORS can obtain a copy of the law from http://www.statewidemls.com.

Posted: 10/5/01

TO Medical & Other News

To print: Select File and then Print from your browser's menu

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Title: **Children Are at Greater Risk of Injury or Death From Carbon Monoxide Poisoning**
URL: http://www.pslgroup.com/dg/CF62.htm
Doctor's Guide
October 14, 1996

CHICAGO, Oct. 14, 1996 -- Children, infants and unborn babies are more vulnerable to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning than healthy adults, according to toxicologists and medical professionals. Younger family members are particularly susceptible due to their higher metabolic rates -- meaning they require more oxygen and use it faster than adults. Carbon monoxide even in small amounts works to restrict oxygen in the bloodstream, thus starving a child's tissues and organs of what is needed to function and develop properly.

"Carbon monoxide poisoning can cause neurological problems, learning disabilities, memory loss and personality changes in children and can lead to miscarriage or stillbirth for women exposed during pregnancy," said Dr. Marc Bayer, medical director, Connecticut Poison Control Center. "Because of the higher oxygen requirements of smaller bodies, carbon monoxide's interference with oxygen delivery can lead to permanent damage to a child's developing nervous system," he said.

Young children are also vulnerable to misdiagnosis because they cannot fully explain the onset, progression and severity of their symptoms. Additionally, because children spend most of their time in the home, they are more likely to be exposed to carbon monoxide produced by gas, oil, wood or propane burning appliances and heating systems.

"Because this toxin is invisible to human senses and the early poisoning symptoms look like other common problems such as the flu, the best way to know if a leak is present is to equip the home with carbon monoxide detectors that have an audible alarm," said Bayer.

To provide an early warning of carbon monoxide dangers, First Alert(R), the nation's leading brand of carbon monoxide detectors, has developed a UL listed, extra-sensitive battery-powered detector that will sense carbon monoxide at lower concentrations than plug-in models are designed to detect. The detector will continue to operate in the event of a power outage, a time when alternative heat sources are commonly used and can be mounted out of reach of little fingers -- important to children with families.

Families with children, pregnant women, elderly people or anyone with heart or lung disorders may want the added protection of the First Alert bio-sensor technology. The elderly and people with heart and lung disorders are at greater risk of injury or death from carbon monoxide because CO can aggravate a pre-existing condition of restricted oxygen flow in the

bloodstream.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends that every home in America install at least one carbon monoxide detector with an audible alarm, located near the sleeping area. Additional detectors on every level provide an extra measure of safety.

Return to News Story Page

THE
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Anchorage Daily New

Sunday, December 7, 2003 ALASKA'S NEWSPAPER

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Photos by BRIAN K. STEINHAUER / Anchorage Daily News

Friends arrived at Dave and Rita Arts' Hillside residence Saturday after unsuccessful attempts to contact them. Four family members were found dead inside the Bear Valley home, all victims of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Gas kills four at home

Father, three children perish on Hillside; mother fighting for life

By TATABOLINE BRANT and ZAZ HOLLANDER
Anchorage Daily News

A father and his three children died after carbon monoxide saturated the air in their Bear Valley home, fire officials said Saturday.

Anchorage firefighters found the four dead in bedrooms and a hallway of the three-story Robert Drive home when they were summoned to the scene shortly after noon Saturday by a neighbor. The mother was found unconscious in a hallway, was rushed to the hospital and was fighting for her life late Saturday night.

Firefighters did not know how long the family had been dead. Police said some victims were still in their nightclothes.

David Arts, 42, was found dead in his bed on the third floor, Anchorage Fire Department spokesman Tom Kempton said.

Wilem, 3, and his sister Taylor, 11, were found in their shared room on the second floor, Wilem

See Back Page, DEATHS

The Arts family lived at 8100 Robert Drive. David Arts, 42; daughters Ann Marie, 8, and Taylor, 11; and son Wilem, 3, died. Rita Arts was taken to Alaska Regional Hospital.

New tactics make U.S. troops safer, ...ger Iraqis

■ **GET-TOUGH:** Strategy similar to approach Israel uses in occupied territories.

By DEXTER FILKINS
The New York Times

ABU HISHMA, Iraq — As the have begun imprisoning the relatives of suspected guerrillas in hopes of pressuring the insurgents to turn themselves in.

The Americans embarked on their get-tough strategy in early November, the deadliest month yet for U.S. forces in Iraq, with 81 soldiers

INSIDE

■ **ATTACK KILLS CHILDREN:** U.S.-led air attack against suspected terrorist in Afghanistan killed nine children as well as the intended target.

Page A-8

...acks on American troops, Iraqi civilians line up to go in and out, filing through an American-guarded checkpoint, each carrying an identification card printed in English only.

"If you have one of these cards, you can come and go," coaxed Lt. Col. Nathan Sassaman, the battal-

No ra for b must

■ **IDITAROD:** Racha... misses mandatory m...

By ZAZ HOLLANDER
Anchorage Daily News

After pressuring Id... rod Trail Sled Dog Race ... cials to allow her to run ... special concessions, a le... ly blind woman from Ore... failed to show up for a m... datory rookies meeting ... urday and will not compet... next year's race.

Rachael Scdoris, a ... year-old musher from B... Ore., waged an aggress... high-profile campaign this ... to get race officials to b... rules banning outside ass... modations.

Scdoris suffers from ... genital achromatopsia, a ... reditary condition that ... pairs her central vision ... makes it hard for her to ... the front of her team. ... critics feared the condi... could threaten her safety ... that of her dogs and poss... other mushers.

In September, race ... cials voted to let her run ... Iditarod with help from an ... sistant on a separate dog ... who would radio warni...

See Back Page, SCDO...

Plane s... man sp... night i...

■ **EKLUTNA:** He stay... cabin overnight, wa...

By KATIE PESZNECKER
Anchorage Daily News

An Anchorage firefigh... plane into Eklutna Lake ... swam to shore, spent a fre... per's cabin, then walked e... ers stumbled upon him a... said Saturday.

Battalion Chief Wade ... age Fire Department's Si... idence Alaska Medical ... night, dehydrated, cold a... Col. Steve Politsch, an Al... spokesman.

Dan Amyot, the park ra... that when they initially fo... urday walking along the ... fighter was mildly to mod... and "a little bit out of it." ... snowmachine to the rang...

DEATHS: *Neighbor found bodies, called police*

Continued from A-1

in his bed, Taylor on a mattress next to the bed. Ann Marie, 8, and her mother, Rita Arts, 33, were found lying side by side in a hallway outside the children's room.

"I don't know if that means anything or not," paramedics battalion chief Kurt Sorensen said.

Fire and utility officials Saturday night were still trying to determine the source of the carbon monoxide.

The first firefighter inside "found the mother with some signs of life and got her out of the house immediately," Kempton said.

"This is a very horrible tragedy to have happen anytime of the year, let alone Christmas," Kempton said.

Officials said a concerned relative or friend who lives nearby went to check on the Arts family Saturday because they had missed several appointments. The woman had a key to the house, a home with a spectacular view of the mountains, and let herself in, Kempton said. The woman found the bodies and called 911.

Carbon monoxide, a byproduct of combustion, is lethal if inhaled for an extended period. It gets into the blood and robs the blood of oxygen. Early symptoms of exposure include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and confusion.

Kempton said carbon monoxide can come from a variety of sources, such as a malfunctioning furnace, a gas-burning generator or an idling car. Carbon monoxide tends to concentrate on upper floors in homes because it is lighter than air, Sorensen said.

Initial carbon monoxide readings at the Artses' home came back at 715 parts per million, Kempton said. "That's very high."

Levels of 150 to 200 ppm are sufficient to kill, according to a Consumer Product Safety Commission publication. More than 200 people die every year in the United States from carbon monoxide produced by fuel-burning appliances, according to the publication.

Rita Arts was rushed to a local hospital and then moved to a facility with a pressurized chamber, Kempton said. "The only way to treat this is to force more oxygen into the body by higher pressure," Kempton said.

Sorensen said investigators were told that there was a carbon monoxide detector in the house but that it had been unplugged while the Arts family remodeled their home to get ready to move.

Friends of the Artses' stopped by the home Saturday while fire investigators, firefighters, police and Enstar officials worked inside trying to determine where the carbon monoxide came from.

"What happened? What happened?" asked one frantic woman, who showed up with a man. The woman began to cry. The couple said they had been trying to contact the family since the evening before.

Friends said the Artses were getting ready to move overseas. Walter Yankauskas, who lives across the street, said Dave Arts was a cargo pilot for Cathay Pacific Airways. He was about to start work as a passenger pilot and needed to move to Hong Kong, the airline's hub city, he said.

Cathay Pacific Airways could not be reached Saturday.

The Artses planned a party next weekend to mark their move. The invitation was posted on a neighbor's refrigerator.

Dave Arts was known in the Bear Valley neighborhood for plowing his neighbors' driveways and for keeping Robert Drive passable for everyone.

"You notice how it's 40 feet wide up here and it's 15 feet wide down there?" Yankauskas said, gesturing down the steep, snowy road. "That's because of Dave."

"They were just great people," Yankauskas said.

Kempton encouraged all Anchorage residents to install carbon monoxide detectors in their homes.

"They're readily available at almost all hardware stores," he said. "They're not very expensive. They even make combined smoke and carbon monoxide detectors now."

Six people, including three children, were saved in an Anchorage trailer park last winter after a 911 dispatcher realized a caller and her family were suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning during the call.

■ Daily News reporter Tataboline Brant can be reached at tbrant@adn.com or 257-4321.

Carbon monoxide

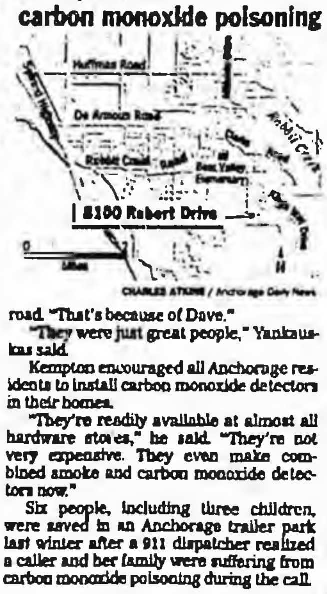
WHAT IS IT: A poisonous, colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that results from the incomplete burning of natural gas and other material containing carbon, such as gasoline, kerosene, oil, propane, coal or wood.

COMMON SOURCES: Idling vehicles, malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning appliances such as ovens, space heaters and furnaces.

SYMPTOMS: Headache, fatigue, nausea, shortness of breath, confused thinking. Can cause death if exposed for extended periods of time.

MORE INFO, INCLUDING SAFETY TIPS: www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/466.html

Family members die from carbon monoxide poisoning



CHARLES ATKINS / Anchorage Daily News

SCDORIS: *Disq*

Continued from A-1

about trail dangers ahead. The board had previously rejected her request to run with one or two visual interpreters on snowmachines.

On Saturday, Scdoris' father, Jerry Scdoris, said the decision not to run next March was based on several factors.

Using a dog sled instead of a snowmachine doubled the team's original budget, estimated at $40,000 to $50,000, Scdoris said. A snowmobile manufacturer also pulled its sponsorship, he said. "That's about a $40,000 turnaround right there."

His daughter, a veteran of several stage races in the Lower 48, also needs to get accustomed to relying on a visual interpreter on a sled rather than on a snowmobile, he said.

Rachael Scdoris was the only rookie of a record 50 entered in the race who did not attend a mandatory meeting Saturday at the Millennium Alaskan Hotel. She did not officially withdraw by Saturday, but she is no longer eligible to race because attendance at the meeting was required of all rookie mushers, said race marshal Mark Nordman.

Scdoris' absence on Saturday caught some of her peers by surprise.

"I looked for her, and I didn't see her. I seen her picture in the paper a few times, and I thought, well, I'd probably meet her there," said Gary McKellar, a 46-year-old Wasilla musher running the race for the first time.

Scdoris' bid to race gained national attention after the

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■ Daily News … reached at …

RESCUE: *Pilot spends a night in the cold after crashing plane int*

Continued from A-0

A nurse at Providence Alaska Medical Center said Strahan would stay in the hospital as long as it took for his feet to warm up.

He declined to speak to the media but could be heard through the curtain of his hospital room describing his ordeal to friends and family members. Strahan's rescue came roughly 24 hours after he left Merrill Field on Friday afternoon on a solo flight in his Cessna C-172.

He did not file a flight plan.

Strahan's wife apparently called firefighters when her husband was overdue. The Alaska National Guard and Civil Air Patrol started searching after interviewing Strahan's wife about places her husband typically flew to.

The resulting search area was 2,400 square miles that encompassed Eklutna Lake, the Chugach Range, Lake George, Knik, and Big Lake, said Major Chris Kobl, senior rescue controller with the Guard.

"It would have made everybody's life so much easier if we'd had a flight plan," Kobl said.

Strahan told rescue officials that the plane crashed about 3 p.m. Friday while he was attempting to land at Bill Airstrip on the lake's east end.

"He was doing a touch and go to pack a route on the airstrip and test the airstrip to see how solid it was," said Amyot, who added that Strahan's plane had wheels, not skis.

"It sounds like the third or fourth time he tried to make a landing, his wheels started sinking in and things got a little tippy," Amyot said.

"He started to take off again, but it slowed him down a little bit and he hit a stump of driftwood that got washed up in late fall."

Amyot said the plane then apparently skidded across the lake shore and plunged through the ice. The plane sank.

"He had to swim about 150 feet to shore," Amyot said.

Strahan etched the word "help" in the shoreline snow. He saw rescue helicopters overhead but didn't get their attention, Amyot said.

He found the Ekhutna Alex Cabin nearby and spent the night there.

The tiny log trapper's cabin was supposed to be removed several years ago by the Eklutna Corp., Amyot said. It has no stove or fireplace.

"He broke a bunch of spruce bows and set up a little bed in there," Amyot said.

The National Weather Service doesn't take an official reading in the Eklutna area, but a forecaster there said that it couldn't have been warmer than 10 degrees Friday night and early Saturday.

"Our winters are unforgiving in Alaska," Kobl said. Strahan "ought to go play the lottery right now."

Photo by JOHN CONLEY

Rescuers escorted Wade Strahan, a battalion chief in the Anchorage Fire Department, to a helicopter at the Eklutna Ranger Station. The man on the left gave Strahan his own socks to wear. Strahan had landed at the Eklutna airstrip and when he tried to take off again the plane crashed into the lake. Strahan got out of the plane, swam to shore and spent the night in a nearby cabin.

Strahan on Saturday set out walking. He had gone eight miles when, less than two miles from the ranger station, he encountered several skiers.

The skiers text messaged police on a cell phone and skied to the ranger station, where they found Amyot and the caretaker, Chandra Caleert.

The pair hopped on snowmachines and headed for Strahan, Amyot taking the lower trail and Caleert taking the upper route. Caleert found him about 1:30 p.m., Amyot said.

They got Strahan back to the ranger station and gave him hot tea and patched a phone call through to his wife.

Police arrived soon, as did an Alaska Air National Guard HH-60G Pavehawk helicopter crew from Kulis Air National Guard Base.

James Conley, a police officer on scene, was amazed by Strahan's ordeal. He said the firefighter had on wet, faded bluejeans, boots, and "a couple layers on top." One of the guardsmen took off his own warm socks to give to Strahan, Conley said.

"He didn't have a chance to get anything out of the aircraft, he told me," Conley said. "It's an incredible story in terms of

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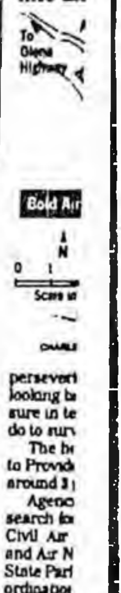

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■ Daily News … can be reach… 257-4589

IRAQ: *Many Iraqis in Sunni triangle find tactics 'absolutely humi*

Continued from A-1

their cars through the line. Over to one side, an Iraqi man named Tariq muttered in anger.

"I see no difference between us and the Palestinians," he said. "We didn't expect anything like this after Saddam fell."

The practice of destroying buildings where insurgents are suspected of planning or mounting attacks has been used for decades by Israeli soldiers in … recently traveled to Israel to glean lessons learned from their counter terrorist operations in urban areas."

Vane is the deputy chief of staff for doctrine concepts and strategy, at the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

American officers here say their new hard-nosed approach reflects a more realistic appreciation of the military and political realities faced by U.S. soldiers in the Sunni triangle, the area … hitting back pretty hard. We've forced them to slow down the pace of their operations."

In that way, the new American approach seems to share the successes of the Israeli military, at least in the short term. Israeli officers contend that their heavy-handed strategy regularly stops catastrophes like suicide bombings from taking place.

"If you do nothing, they will just get stronger," said Martin van Creveld …

The grenade went straight into the sergeant's chest. With the Bradley still smoldering, the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, part of the 4th Infantry Division, surrounded Abu Hishma and searched for the guerrillas. Soldiers began encasing the town in razor wire.

The next day, an American jet dropped a 500-pound bomb on the house that had been used to attack them. The Americans arrested 10 … guerrillas.

In Tikrit, re… home they said … American tanks … ready left, they … "I watched … that house," sai… lives down the … U.S. officers … have destroyed … krit. In a recent … other explained …

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State Edition

Anchorage Daily News

Tuesday, December 9, 2003 ALASKA'S NEWSPAPER www.adn.com

Carbon monoxide traced to poorly vented furnace

■ BEAR VALLEY: Four members of Arts family died; mother still in hospital.

By TATABOLINE BRANT
Anchorage Daily News

An improperly ventilated gas furnace caused a Bear Valley home to fill with carbon monoxide over the weekend, killing a man and his three children and leaving the mother of the family in critical condition, officials said Monday.

Anchorage Fire Department spokesman Tom Kempton said investigators determined that the fresh-air intake vent on David and Rita Arts' furnace had been intentionally blocked, perhaps to keep cold air from getting into the house.

Kempton did not immediately know what blocked the vent. But, he said, as the temperatures dropped outside and the furnace worked harder, the blocked vent caused fumes to be drawn from the furnace room into the living areas of the home.

Authorities were called to the residence on Robert Drive around noon Saturday by a concerned neighbor who went to check on the family after they missed some appointments.

Firefighters found David Arts, 42, in his bed on the third floor. Wilem, 5, and his sister Taylor, 11, were found in their beds in a shared room on the second floor. Ann Marie, 8, and Rita, 33, were discovered together in a hallway outside the children's bedroom. Everyone but Rita was dead, officials said. She was rushed to Alaska Regional Hospital, where she remained Monday. Her condition was not released.

Initial carbon monoxide readings in the Artses' home showed more than 700 parts per million. Levels of 150 ppm are sufficient to kill.

Kempton said investigators did not find any evidence that a vehicle parked in an attached garage was the source of the carbon monoxide. The car was not running when authorities arrived Saturday and it still had about a quarter of a tank of gas, he said. There was no soot stain near the vehicle's exhaust, which would have been consistent with an idling engine, he said. The car did not have a remote starter.

The tragedy has shocked Anchorage and Bear Valley, and many residents have rushed out to buy carbon monoxide detectors for their homes.

See Back Page, FURNACE

Panel looks at limiting pull-tabs

■ SENATORS: Should $25.2 million operation just serve charities?

By SEAN COCKERHAM
Anchorage Daily News

JUNEAU —Think pull-tab charitable gaming permits in Alaska just go to charities?

Well, you're wrong.

Sure, the American Lung Association of Alaska, the Special Olympics of Alaska and various youth sports programs all have state pull-tab permits. But so do groups like Home Builders Association of Juneau, the Fairbanks Area Sheet Metal Workers, the Alaska Democratic Party and the Anchorage Republican Women's Club.

On Monday, a legislative subcommittee took up whether to

ON THE LOOKOUT AT FORT RICHARDSON

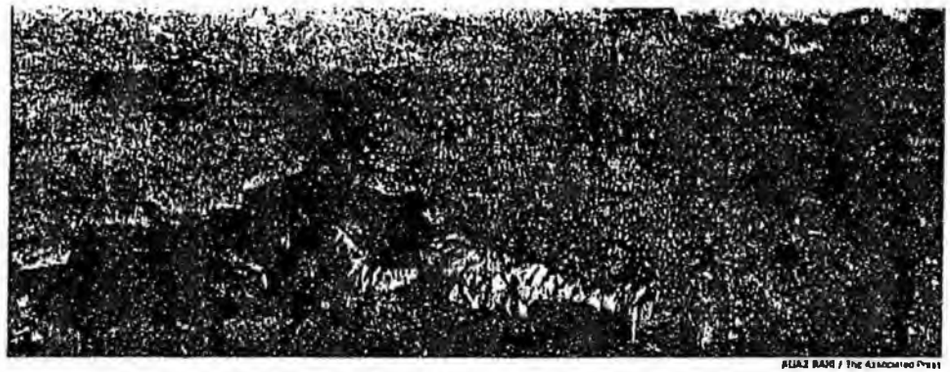
Afghan postwar assault begins

■ OPERATION AVALANCHE: U.S. targets those who target rebuilding.

By STEPHEN GRAHAM
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. military launched its largest postwar offensive against Taliban and al-Qaida insurgents Monday, sending 2,000 soldiers into a lawless swath of Afghanistan to put down a wave of attacks

Afghanistan on Saturday, mistakenly killing nine children, officials said.



ELIAZ BAKR / The Associated Press

AFGHANISTAN: *U.S. strike may have missed terrorist*

Continued from A-1

Brig. Gen. Lloyd Austin, has appointed a team of military policemen, doctors, a lawyer and a nurse to investigate the deaths, Hilferty said. The military will also provide aid to the village, he said.

The deaths of so many children shocked Afghans and foreign officials. The United Nations has called for an investigation and for the findings to be made public. The U.N. spokesman in Kabul, Manoel de Almeida e Silva, said the deaths would have a "negative impact" on the population, which is already unhappy with the presence of foreign military.

The U.N. secretary general, Kofi Annan, expressed "profound sadness" at the deaths and warned that the fight against terrorism "cannot be won at the expense of innocent lives."

His special envoy in Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, said that the incident followed similar incidents and contributes to a sense of insecurity and fear in the country.

Operation Avalanche, in southern and eastern Afghanistan, "is the largest we have ever designed," Hilferty said at the coalition military headquarters at Bagram, north of the capital, Kabul. The enemy "isn't going to know when we hit. He isn't going to know what we're doing."

"Right now, I'd say there's four infantry battalions involved" of around 500 men each, Hilferty said. Some Afghan National Army and militia forces also will be involved, he said.

Hilferty gave no details about the operation, including when it started or what provinces were targeted.

Taliban fighters have stepped up attacks — particularly against aid workers and civilians — in provinces near the Pakistani border and in Ghazni and Zabul provinces south of the capital.

On Monday, one Pakistani engineer was shot dead. His Afghan driver was wounded when gunmen attacked their vehicle on the main Kabul-Kandahar highway in Ghazni province. A second Pakistani engineer was missing, and two escaped.

A French U.N. worker was gunned down last month in Ghazni, and three international workers were kidnapped in past weeks.

The wave of Taliban attacks against aid workers, U.S. soldiers and Afghan government officials has belied American claims that it is winning the war to stabilize the country. Two years after the fall of the Taliban, 11,700 soldiers, mainly Americans, remain in Afghanistan on combat missions against the Taliban and their allies, remnants of al-Qaida and followers of renegade warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

But Saturday's airstrike highlighted the risk that a heavy U.S. military hand may only alienate Afghan civilians.

"Every innocent who is killed has brothers, uncles, sisters and nephews, and behind them the tribe," said Sadokhan Ambarkhil, deputy governor of Paktika, one of the most dangerous provinces for coalition troops and their Afghan allies. "If 10 people are killed, how many people are saddened?"

The push announced Monday follows Operation Mountain Resolve, which involved about 1,000 troops to stabilize a remote northeastern region bordering Pakistan. That operation, which was launched Nov. 7 and ended this weekend, saw only minor skirmishes.

The number of U.S. troops in Operation Avalanche appeared to be bigger than the March 2002 Operation Anaconda, one of the heaviest battles in the U.S.-led campaign in Afganistan, in which 2,000 American and allied Afghan forces participated.

■ The New York Times contributed to this story.

YEE: *Captain faces a total of 13 years if convicted*

Continued from A-1

secure container — at the time and confined in solitary in a naval brig for nearly three months while the military completed its investigation. When the investigation was finished last month and he was released, the military's new charges involved keeping pornography on his government computer and having an extramarital affair, both violations of the military code of justice.

The military does not contend that either of those offenses are related to any security breaches but that they were violations discovered in the course of the investigation. But Yee's civilian defense lawyer, Eugene Fidell, has said the charges were added vindictively as part of an effort to cover up the military's mistake and overreaction.

"I think it is quite disgraceful that this officer's reputation was tarnished in a way that can never be repaired," Fidell said Monday. He hopes the presiding judge will recommend dismissal of the charges, which he characterized as "trivial and inconsequential."

However inconsequential they might be, the testimony of Wallace on Monday produced great anguish for Yee and his family and probably for the lieutenant. Under questioning by a prosecutor and the judge, Wallace, who testified under a grant of immunity from prosecution for her own behavior, said the relationship was social and romantic.

"Was it sexual?" asked Col. Dan. Trimble, the presiding officer. "Yes, sir," she replied.

"What does it mean to have a sexual relationship?" Trimble asked. "We had sex together," she said, estimating having done so about 20 times at his quarters and hers. She said that she knew he was married because he told her.

Yee's wife, who was born in Syria and wore a Muslim head covering and a long black coat, went outside the courtroom and began sobbing on a bench. When Wallace walked out, Yee's wife went after her with her daughter in her arms.

"You happy now?" shouted Yee inches from Wallace. "Destroying a family?"

her and said: "You know what? You need to speak with him."

Yee walked back to the courtroom and shouted an epithet at Wallace.

The court also heard testimony from law enforcement officials at Jacksonville who had detained Yee on Sept. 10. One, a customs inspector, testified via telephone that he had been told to scrutinize Yee when he got off the flight from Jacksonville because he might be carrying classified information. Fidell, Yee's lawyer, said that such testimony showed that the discovery of any suspicious papers was not a result of a random search. Yee's friends have suggested that the authorities at Guantanamo resented him because of the way he ministered to and looked out for the interests of the mostly Muslim prison population there.

At the end of the hearing, Trimble is supposed to make a recommendation from a list of options that range from a general court martial to an acquittal. Yee faces up to 13 years in prison if tried

FURNACE: *Cause*

Continued from A-1

A manager at Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse on Tudor Road said his store has sold more than 29 of the devices in the past two days. There are still some in stock — ranging from $27 to $40 — and the store put in a rush order for more, he said. Sales also were up at Wal-Mart, said Marty Howard, a manager at the South Anchorage store.

Mayor Mark Begich's press secretary, Julie Hasquet, said the mayor is asking for donations for carbon monoxide detectors for a giveaway next week. Some corporate sponsors have stepped up, she said. Donations can be made to the Red Cross and dropped off at its headquarters at 235 E. Eighth Ave.

"Everybody here is devastated," Hasquet said. "The mayor was very upset and we all talked about what could we do, and that's how we came up with the idea."

Tami Powell, who has known the Artses for about 12 years and lives near their home, said Dave Arts used to be the Bear Valley Community Council president and Rita Arts was formerly in charge of the local Parent Teacher Association. The Artses would pitch in to keep the restricted-access roads in Bear Valley plowed and would help anyone who got stuck in the snow, she said.

"Three years ago when my husband broke his hip, Dave came over to sit with my husband and care for my husband," Powell said. "They were just so warm and loving and caring to everyone. They would have helped anyone in need."

Powell said the accident has been difficult for everyone in Bear Valley.

"I don't know how anyone could go to work today," she said. "They were very well loved by their neighborhood."

Powell said the tragedy has to be particularly hard for Bear Valley Elementary, where the Artses' two daughters went to school and Rita was the former PTA president.

Anchorage School District spokesman Roger Fiedler said counselors were on hand at the school Monday to talk to parents, students and staffers and will stay throughout the week. "It's a very close community out there."

Officials said neighbors told them the Artses had a carbon monoxide detector in their home but it was unplugged because they were remodeling and getting ready to move.

Dave Arts, a cargo pilot for Cathay Pacific Airways since 2000, was about to move to Hong Kong, the airline's hub city, to take a job as a passenger pilot, friends and airline officials said.

Nationwide, about 500 people a year die from accidental exposure to carbon monoxide, according to federal statistics. Kempton said the Anchorage Fire Department has responded to 144 carbon monoxide alarms so far this year. Last winter, six people, including three children, were saved at an Anchorage trailer park after a 911 dispatcher realized a caller and her family were suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning during the call.

"The only sure way to make sure that something like this doesn't happen is to have a carbon monoxide detector," Kempton said. He recommended buying one with an Underwriters Laboratory rating on the packaging.

ADN LINKS

■ **FOR MORE** safety tips, visit the Enstar Natural Gas Co. Web site via

Anchorage, AK

Brad Hibbert/KTUU

The Arts did have a carbon monoxide detector, but was unplugged.

Stores sell out of carbon monoxide detectors after tragedy

Dan Fagan

Anchorage, Alaska, Dec. 7 - An Anchorage mother was fighting for her life Sunday after losing her husband and three children.

Thirty-three-year-old Rita Arts is the only member of her family to survive high carbon monoxide levels in their Hillside home. The four deaths of her husband and three kids had people rushing to hardware stores Sunday to buy carbon monoxide detectors.

At Home Depot, employees began to see the rush to buy CO detectors the moment the doors opened. The demand was so high, people forced the store to move all remaining detectors to a display in the front.

Stores like Home Depot are reporting the sales increase of CO detectors after the four deaths at 8100 Robert Dr. in Bear Valley. Saturday, Firefighters found the bodies of 42-year-old David Arts and his three kids Taylor, Ann Marie and Willem, ages 11, 8 and 3, respectively.

They found Rita Arts unconscious in the hallway next to her daughter, Ann Marie.

Alaska Regional Hospital has reported Rita Arts in critical condition and is being treated in a hyperbaric chamber every eight hours.

The fire department has not determined why the Arts home had such high levels of the carbon monoxide poison and does not suspect foul play.

The family has a CO detector, but it was apparently left unplugged.

Many that stormed home improvement stores for the CO detectors did so to prevent such a tragedy from striking their family. One such man, Mark Stevens, bought three detectors.

"I saw it on the news. I thought I would pick one up for each floor of my house...I'll pick up three," said Stevens.

NEXT STORY >>

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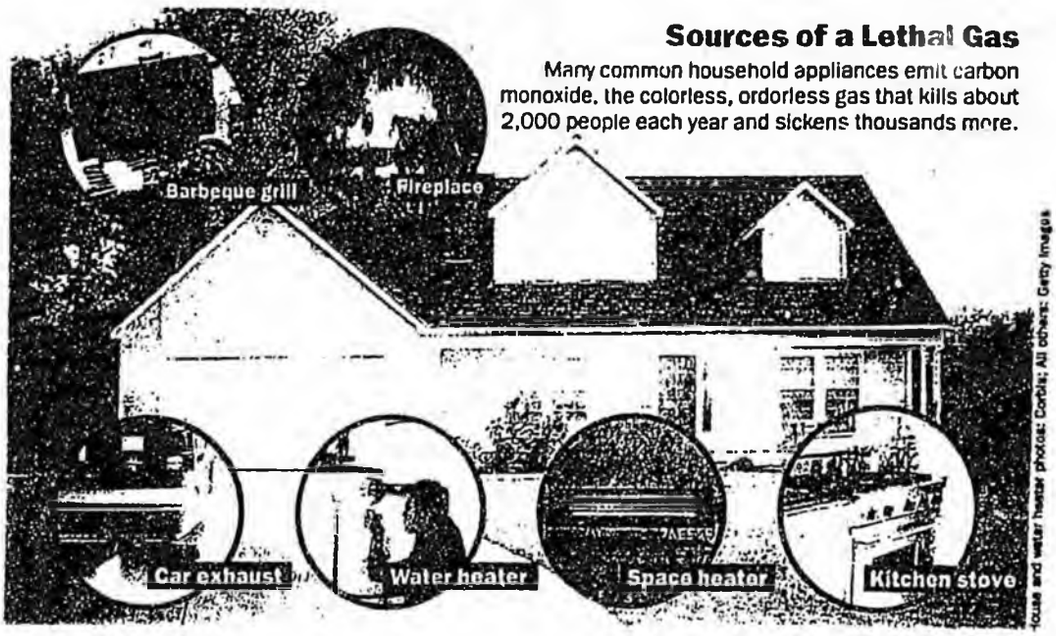


Sources of a Lethal Gas

Many common household appliances emit carbon monoxide, the colorless, ordorless gas that kills about 2,000 people each year and sickens thousands more.

More States Force Homeowners to Install Devices That Monitor Deadly Carbon Monoxide

By Andrea Petersen

A GROWING NUMBER of states and cities are requiring homes to install a device that detects the presence of carbon monoxide, a dangerous gas that kills 2,000 people a year and sickens many times that number.

Surprising to most homeowners, carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning in the U.S. Detectors have been available for almost a decade, to alert people to the gases—odorless and colorless—spewed out by faulty furnaces, stoves and even barbecue grills. However, fewer than one-third of American homes have these inexpensive devices, according to industry surveys.

Just as laws requiring smoke alarms spurred nearly every household to install them during the past 20 years or so, legislators and doctors are hopeful that the new carbon-monoxide detector requirements will have the same effect.

Starting next month, most homes sold in New York state—new or resale—must have a carbon-monoxide monitor. Similar laws have already passed in Rhode Island, New Jersey and West Virginia. A number of other states are contemplating legislation. Action is being taken at the local level too: Cities such as Chicago and St. Louis have ordinances requiring detectors.

"A detector can save families from something they can not control," says Stephen Gladstone, vice president of the American Society of Home Inspectors. "If somebody doesn't have a carbon-monoxide alarm and their heating system malfunctions, they might just not wake up." Nearly a decade ago, tennis star Vitas Gerulaitis died of carbon-monoxide poisoning from a faulty heater.

Legislation seems to have life-saving effects: Cities with ordinances that require carbon-monoxide detectors have much lower death rates from exposure to the gas than those that don't, according to a study published last year in the American Journal of Emergency Medicine. In Chicago, for example, which does require carbon-monoxide detectors, 0.4% of those exposed to the substance during the time of the study died. In Los Angeles, 16% of those exposed died.

While fires and automobiles are the top producers of carbon monoxide, a typical family home has myriad possible culprits. Furnaces, kitchen stoves, water heaters, fireplaces, generators, camping stoves and charcoal barbecues—anything that burns fossil fuels such as gasoline, diesel fuel, wood and kerosene—can produce dangerous levels of the gas.

One June day three years ago, Thad Dohrn turned on the air conditioner in his three-bedroom house in Ames, Iowa, for the first time that summer. The next morning his wife, Stephanie, complained of a headache. As he walked to the bathroom to check on her, he passed out. He came to, but then Stephanie passed out. "She came to and we walked outside. I was crying on the phone to our neighbors and was all confused," says Mr. Dohrn, now an associate athletic director at Columbia University in New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Dohrn were taken to the hospital and diagnosed with carbon-monoxide poisoning. The cause: A mechanical malfunction caused the air conditioner and the heat to be on simultaneously. The system didn't have proper ventilation either. And the Dohrns didn't have a carbon-monoxide monitor.

Carbon monoxide is produced when these fossil fuels don't burn completely. Incomplete or "dirty" burning can occur if rust or grime falls into a furnace burner, if equipment cracks or rusts, if gas pressure is out of adjustment or if there isn't proper ventilation for these devices. Health officials have seen carbon-monoxide poisoning occur after people warm up their cars in their garages, even for a few minutes.

"It can be produced so easily and it can spill into a home so easily," says Tom Greiner, an Iowa human-housing engineer who is pressing for a law in his state to require detectors.

Today's carbon-monoxide detectors don't go off anytime they sense the gas. Earlier versions of the device (those made before 1998) did that and were tripped off so easily—a car pulling into the garage could cause it to go off—that many consumers saw them as an annoyance and were inclined to ignore them.

Continued From Page D1

New Laws Require Home Carbon-Monoxide Detectors

Detecting Deadly Gas

Here are a few of the many carbon monoxide alarms on the market.

DETECTOR	CONTACT	PRICE
First Alert Maximum Protection	800-323-9005 BRK Brands, Inc. Aurora, Ill.	About $50
Kidde's Nightwatch combo alarm	800-654-9677 Kidde Plc. London	Generally retails for $40 to $50
Sense Medal One	800-858-0158 Senco Sensors, Inc. Vancouver, B.C.	$49.95

New models go off when they sense a certain level of gas over a period of time. The detectors measure how many molecules of carbon monoxide are present in one million molecules of air (parts per million). Government regulations state that 50 parts per million is the maximum concentration a healthy adult should sustain over an eight-hour period. (A concentration of 400 parts per million can be life-threatening within three hours.)

Consumers can choose from inexpensive no-frills monitors that simply beep and cost around $15 to fancier $50 devices that have digital displays and flash the concentration detected. There are also combination smoke and carbon-monoxide alarms. Safety experts recommend that an alarm be placed outside bedrooms and on each floor of the house. Some also suggest putting a detector near carbon-monoxide-producing devices such as furnaces. Manufacturers suggest that people replace their alarms every seven years since sensors can degrade and electronics can fail. Companies that sell detectors include U.K.-based Kidde PLC (www.kiddesafety.com) and BRK Electronics' First Alert (www.firstalert.com).

Symptoms of carbon-monoxide poisoning vary depending on the concentration of gas in the air. Mild carbon-monoxide exposure often mimics the flu or food poisoning—with headaches, nausea, vomiting and fatigue—and is thus commonly misdiagnosed. Higher concentrations of carbon monoxide can cause almost immediate dizziness and nausea and can lead to convulsions, coma and death within a few hours, or even minutes at extremely high concentrations. Small children and those with heart and respiratory conditions are most at risk. And some patients complain of neurological symptoms months and even years after exposure.

Carbon monoxide suffocates the cells of the body: It enters the bloodstream and prevents the release of oxygen to the tissue. The only treatment for carbon-monoxide poisoning is to immediately leave the source of the gas and to administer oxygen. Some patients with severe exposure are placed in hyperbaric oxygen chambers (the same treatment for scuba divers with the "bends").

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

EARLY EDITION
Sunday: Cloudy, unusually mild and breezy, high 68. Sunday night, showers, low 60. Monday, high 57. Weather map appears on Page 47.

VOL. CLII . . . . No. 52,298 NEW YORK, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2002 THREE DOLLARS

The New York Times
Real Estate

Sunday, November 10, 2002

Special:
Manhattan
Real Estate Offerings

Section 11

YOUR HOME

Monitoring Carbon Monoxide

By JAY ROMANO

UNDER a new state law that takes effect in New York on Nov. 30, all newly constructed one-family homes, two-family homes and co-op and condominium apartments must have carbon monoxide alarms installed. The law also requires existing homes and apartments to have carbon monoxide alarms installed before they can be sold.

And in New Jersey, where existing state law requires carbon monoxide alarms in multifamily dwellings, rooming houses and hotels, legislation introduced in the State Senate last month would require carbon monoxide alarms in all newly constructed one- and two-family homes and in existing homes when they are sold if a certificate of occupancy is required for the sale.

The increasing attention to the dangers of carbon monoxide comes after at least nine people in the region — four family members in a home in Colonia, N.J.; a 76-year old woman in Carteret, N.J.; a husband and wife in Queens; and an 80-year old woman and her daughter in a Brooklyn apartment building — died of accidental carbon monoxide poisoning within the last month.

"Reports of entire families killed in their homes by carbon monoxide poisoning highlights the importance of this legislation," said State Senator Joseph Palaia, a Republican from Ocean Township, sponsor of the proposed legislation in New Jersey. "Inexpensive carbon monoxide detectors could have prevented those tragedies."

In New York, Assemblyman Joseph Morelle, a Democrat from Irondequoit, the sponsor of the law that will take effect at the end of this month, said the proven success of smoke detector laws inspired him to push for a law requiring carbon monoxide detectors and alarms. "As smoke alarm laws were enacted, more of these life safety devices went into homes and death rates from fire have declined," Mr. Morelle said. "It's now time to look at carbon monoxide alarms the same way."

Dr. Edward P. Krenzelok, director of the poison center in the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, said carbon monoxide is a natural byproduct of combustion whenever an organic fuel is burned. "We're talking about wood, natural gas, heating oil and gasoline, to name a few," Dr. Krenzelok said. "And once you have produced carbon monoxide, you need to vent it out to the environment."

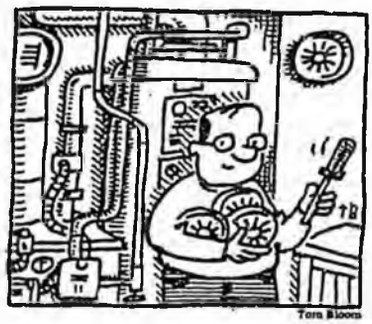
While most people know that it is extremely dangerous to allow an automobile to run in a closed garage, he said, people generally do not realize that any number of combustion appliances in a house can result in dangerously high levels of carbon monoxide if they are not properly vented.

Moreover, Dr. Krenzelok said, people made ill from carbon monoxide often are not aware of the cause of their illness. "Carbon monoxide poisoning is called 'the great imitator,'" he said, explaining that the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning — headache, nausea and muscle weakness — are the same symptoms commonly associated with the flu.

While most people who are exposed to nonlethal levels of carbon monoxide fully recover, about 10 percent of those who are exposed to the gas, which is tasteless, colorless and odorless, develop delayed neurological and behavioral problems like memory loss and behavior change.

Infants, the unborn and elderly people are at greater risk than the general population. "A fetus is particularly vulnerable because fetal hemoglobin holds onto carbon monoxide five times longer than the mother's blood," Dr. Krenzelok said. "And a senior citizen with pre-existing heart disease could be more at risk for a heart attack because the carbon monoxide may limit the amount of oxygen being released to the heart."

Dr. Krenzelok pointed out that there are



Tom Bloom

Under a new law in New York, carbon monoxide alarms must be installed before a home is sold.

generally two ways to prevent accidental carbon monoxide poisoning. The first is to ensure that carbon monoxide is not allowed to build up in a house, and the second is to alert occupants if it does.

Robert Bellini, president of Varsity Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning in Flushing, said homeowners who use any organic fuel to heat their house — including wood, oil, gas and coal — should make sure that the products of combustion are being properly vented to the exterior.

"All it takes is for a bird or a squirrel to build a nest in your chimney, and you can end up with dangerous gases backing up into your home," Mr. Bellini said. He said that even if a chimney is only partially obstructed by an abandoned nest, the obstruction could reduce the ability of the chimney to vent gases from the house. And on windy days, Mr. Bellini said, the wind may create a back draft in the chimney that pushes combustion gases back into the house.

"The most common cause of carbon monoxide in a house is faulty heating equipment," Mr. Bellini said, pointing out that cracked or improperly sealed vent pipes from the furnace or boiler could allow carbon monoxide to escape into living areas.

And warm air furnaces — which use what is known as a heat exchanger to heat air that is then circulated throughout the house — occasionally develop cracks that result in carbon monoxide being distributed by the heating system itself.

Accordingly, Mr. Bellini said, homeowners should consider hiring a professional to inspect their heating system — using devices that can detect even small amounts of carbon monoxide — at the beginning of each heating season.

Other potential sources of carbon monoxide in the home are improperly vented gas-fueled water heaters and clothes dryers, gas- or wood-fueled fireplaces and stoves, kerosene heaters and even gas-fueled cooking stoves and ovens.

In fact, there are so many potential sources of carbon monoxide in many homes, the only way to be sure that dangerous levels of the gas are not building up is to install a carbon monoxide detector and alarm.

Ed LeBlanc, president of the residential and commercial divisions of Kidde, a Mebane, N.C., manufacturer of home safety products, said there are a number of different carbon monoxide detectors and alarms on the market, costing about $18 to $50.

Detectors that have been approved by Underwriters Laboratories, Mr. LeBlanc said, sound an alarm when specific levels of carbon monoxide are present for certain amounts of time. For example, he said, when levels reach 70 parts per million, the alarm must sound between 60 and 240 minutes after the carbon monoxide is first detected. At 400 parts per million, the alarm sounds between 4 minutes and 15 minutes. The lag time before the alarm sounds, Mr. LeBlanc said, is to prevent it from sounding unnecessarily when relatively small amounts of carbon monoxide are present for relatively short periods of time.

"Even low levels of carbon monoxide can be dangerous over long periods of time," he said. "But when you reach 400 parts per million, you're into a very dangerous situation."

He added that it is also possible to purchase a digital carbon monoxide alarm that provides a continuous readout of the carbon monoxide level and stores in memory the "peak levels" that were recorded.

"That means that if you go away on vacation, you can come back into the home and push the peak level button and it will tell you the maximum level of carbon monoxide you've had since you last turned the unit on," Mr. LeBlanc said. He added that since carbon monoxide mixes readily with room air — instead of rising to the ceiling or falling the floor — carbon monoxide detectors can be installed anywhere in the room. In fact, Mr. LeBlanc said, some models are designed to be set on a table or bed stand.

Generally speaking, he said, carbon monoxide detectors should be installed anywhere there is a source of combustion. "The closer you have them to the source, the better off you are," he said.

Mr. LeBlanc said some manufacturers — including Kidde — make a combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarm that provides a voice warning when unacceptable levels of either substance are detected. Kidde's model, called the Nighthawk, priced at $35, emits a piercing 85-decibel alarm when activated and also alerts homeowners to the source of the problem by announcing either "Fire" or "Warning! Carbon Monoxide."

Dr. Krenzelok of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh said he considers carbon monoxide detectors so important that he gives them to friends as presents. "They make great housewarming gifts," he said. ■

COLD CLIMATE HOUSING RESEARCH CENTER

CCHRC

February 6, 2004

Representative Carl Gatto
State Capitol, Room 411

Representative Max Gruenberg
State Capitol, Room 112
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: HB 351 CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTION DEVICES

Dear Representatives Gatto and Gruenberg,

At our last Board Meeting held on February 3, 2004, the Board of the Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) discussed your above referenced bill. The Board instructed me to express our support for the idea that every residence in Alaska should have at least one CO detector. The recent deaths of the Arts family in Anchorage serve as a very sad testimony to the importance of this safety issue. CO has been called the "cold weather killer" since it is more likely to be a problem in the winter when our houses are closed up against the cold and our heating systems are working overtime. Obviously, this is of particular concern in Alaska where half the year is winter.

While it is of primary importance that our homes are designed correctly and heating and ventilation systems are installed and maintained correctly, it is crucial to have the back up protection of warning devices like CO and smoke detectors to alert us when something has failed and our families are in danger. We applaud your leadership in assuring that all families in Alaska are aware of the danger of CO poisoning and the importance of CO detectors as the last line of defense against this too often very real threat. I have enclosed some materials that we have assembled to help educate builders and homeowners about this issue. We have co-sponsored one public meeting and one builder training workshop so far this year as our part in addressing the CO threat. If there is anything that we can do to assist you in working on this bill, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Jack Hebert, President and CEO
Cold Climate Housing Research Center

CC: Board of Directors
Other co-sponsors of HB 351

CCHRC Internet Web Site: http://www.cchrc.org
515 7th Avenue, suite 340, Fairbanks, AK 99701 Phone: (907) 457-3454 Fax: (907) 457-3456

Tips for Clean Indoor Air in Alaska

health house
AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION of Alaska

Carbon Monoxide

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, but at high levels it can kill. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, and toxic gas. It is produced as a by-product of all combustion processes. Any fuel-fired appliance, vehicle, tool or other device has the potential to produce dangerous levels of CO. When appliances are kept in good working condition, they produce little CO. Improperly maintained or operated appliances, however, can produce fatal CO concentrations in your home. The Consumer Products Safety Commission reports that more than 200 people in the United States die from CO poisoning every year. When carbon monoxide is inhaled, it bonds with part of the red blood cells called hemoglobin. This results in a lack of oxygen to the blood cells. The brain and the heart require large amounts of oxygen and quickly suffer from any oxygen shortage. Because carbon monoxide reduces oxygen delivery to the brain, persons with elevated levels of carbon monoxide do not think clearly and may not even recognize the warning signs. High concentrations of carbon monoxide can kill in less than five minutes. Continued exposure can cause irreversible damage to the nervous system, personality deterioration and severe memory loss.

Health Effects:
CO poisoning symptoms may mimic flu symptoms. Common symptoms include headache, fatigue, nausea, dizziness and confusion. Continued exposure can lead to vomiting, weakness and difficulty breathing. High exposure may result in loss of consciousness, convulsions and death. Presence of CO may worsen underlying heart disease by causing heart irregularity and muscle weakness. Because the symptoms mimic so many illnesses, CO poisoning is often misdiagnosed.

What to Do in an Emergency:
If you believe that you are suffering from CO poisoning:

- Open doors and windows and leave the vicinity immediately,
- Notify your fuel supplier or a competent mechanical contractor.
- Inform your primary health provider that you were exposed to CO. CO poisoning can often be diagnosed by a blood test, if done soon after the exposure.

Tips:

- Never burn charcoal inside a home, garage, vehicle, or tent.
- Never use unvented fuel-burning camping equipment inside a home, garage, vehicle, or tent.
- Never leave a vehicle running in an attached garage, and minimize the amount of time the vehicle is in the garage when you start it each morning, even with the garage door open. Move the vehicle out as soon as possible after starting.
- Have a competent contractor service your fuel-fired appliances on a regular basis (every 1 to 2 years).
- Never use gas appliances such as ranges, ovens, or clothes dryers for heating your home.
- Never operate unvented fuel-burning appliances in any room without adequate ventilation or in any room where people are sleeping.
- Do not use, or service, gasoline-powered tools and engines indoors or in attached garages.

continued on back

Tips for Clean Indoor Air is a set of guidelines for use in maintaining or renovating your existing home with the goal of improving the quality of the air you breathe indoors. This project is funded by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. American Lung Association of Alaska and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation are not to be held liable and do not make any guarantees regarding the outcome of consumer implementation of these guidelines. Tips are not intended to be construed as medical advice or replace the consultation of a physician or specialist in any way.

Helpful websites:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): http://www.cdc.gov
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): http://www.epa.gov/iaq
- Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC): http://www.cpsc.gov
- Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC): http://ahfc.state.ak.us/

American Lung Association of Alaska

500 W. International Airport Road, #A
Anchorage, AK 99518

(907) 276-LUNG
1-800-LUNGUSA

www.aklung.org/HealthHouse

health house
AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION of Alaska

health house
AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION of Alaska

Carbon Monoxide - continued

About Carbon Monoxide Alarms:
Carbon monoxide alarms should meet Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. standards, have a long-term warranty, and be easily self-tested and reset to ensure proper operation. Some carbon monoxide alarms may have dual functions, such as smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. If these dual units were to go into alarm, do not wrongly assume they are malfunctioning in the absence of smoke.

Battery powered devices should have the batteries changed yearly (pick a date that you will remember, such as birthdays or holidays for changing batteries). The Consumer Products Safety Commission recommends that a carbon monoxide detector be placed on each level of your home, with a minimum of one near each sleeping area.

What to Do if the CO Alarm Goes Off:

- Check to see if any member of the household is experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning. If they are have them leave the home and see a physician immediately or call 911.
- If no one is feeling symptoms, open windows and doors to allow fresh air in and notify your fuel supplier. Make sure to turn off all potential sources of CO—your oil or gas furnace, gas water heater, gas range and oven, gas dryer, gas or kerosene space heater and any vehicle or small engine.
- Have a qualified technician inspect your fuel burning appliances and chimneys to make sure they are operating correctly and that there is nothing blocking the fumes from being vented out of the house.

Helpful websites:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): http://www.cdc.gov
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): http://www.epa.gov/iaq
- Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC): http://www.cpsc.gov
- Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC): http://ahfc.state.ak.us/

American Lung Association of Alaska

500 W. International Airport Road, #A
Anchorage, AK 99518

(907) 276-LUNG
1-800-LUNGUSA

www.aklung.org/HealthHouse

health house
AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION of Alaska

Carbon-Monoxide Primer

HOW TO MONITOR YOUR HOME AND PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM THE DEADLY GAS

BY KEN TEXTOR

For the first 6,000 years of human civilization, carbon monoxide wasn't a big problem in the home — unless, perhaps, you lived next door to a volcano. To be sure, the deadly gas has always been around and in the general atmosphere to some degree. And even cave dwellers with a fire near their rocky shelter's entrance got a bit of extra carbon-monoxide gas from the incomplete burning of hydrocarbons (i.e., the wood). So humans have been breathing carbon monoxide to a negligible degree since the dawn of civilization. But it wasn't until housing became more and more airtight in the last hundred years or so, and fossil fuels became an increasingly popular means of heating, cooking and traveling, that carbon-monoxide poisoning became a serious threat in the home.

Now the odorless, colorless gas seems to be everywhere, and in increasingly dangerous amounts. From walking behind the lawnmower or stripping paint from the living-room baseboards to using space heaters, aging furnaces and gas cooking stoves, we live with more and more carbon-monoxide gas (also known as CO gas) nearly every day. Even the morning commute to work gives many people a dose of the toxic gas, particularly if you sit for long periods of time in bumper-to-bumper traffic. So the list of organizations concerned about CO-gas overdoses has gotten longer and longer.

"We got our start in the early 1980s," says Melissa Heeke, spokeswoman for the Chimney Safety Institute of America in Plainfield, Ind. "That's when the issue of wood-burning stoves made it necessary for people to be more aware of chimney safety issues," notes Heeke, whose organization certifies chimney sweeps.

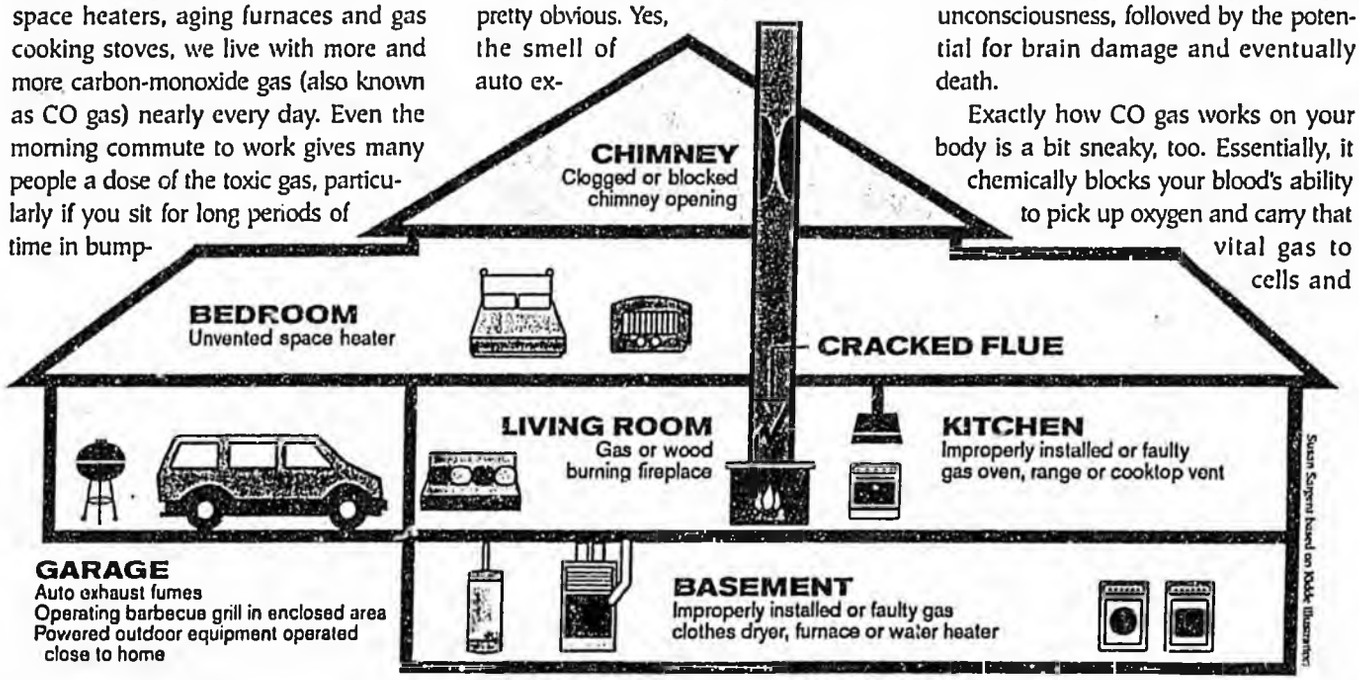
Indeed, regardless of fuel type, proper venting of appliances is foremost among the CO-gas issues facing modern-day homeowners. Depending on whose statistics you read, anywhere from 200 to 1,600 annual accidental deaths are attributable to CO poisoning, making the problem significant enough for the average homeowner to take steps to prevent a mishap. But first it's important to understand the enemy.

CO Stealth

Carbon-monoxide gas is pretty deceptive, even though most people think it's pretty obvious. Yes, the smell of auto exhaust fumes — the best-known source of CO gas — is easily identifiable. But what you smell is not CO gas, which is actually odorless. Likewise, charcoal grills give off plenty of CO gas, and do so long after the smell of lighter fluid disappears. But again, you can't smell it. Many paint strippers also pump CO gas into the air as their chemicals react with the paint. But apart from the smell of the stripper, most people don't know they are inhaling CO gas.

The symptoms of CO-gas exposure are also misleading. Headache, drowsiness and a feeling of malaise or irritability are the preliminary signals. But after a couple of hours in afternoon commuter traffic, most drivers may attribute those symptoms to the stress of endless stop-and-go movement or encounters with road-raged drivers. Likewise, the nausea and a rundown feeling associated with winter flu bugs may actually come from a malfunctioning heating system or even the gas cookstove in the kitchen. The advanced symptom of CO poisoning is unconsciousness, followed by the potential for brain damage and eventually death.

Exactly how CO gas works on your body is a bit sneaky, too. Essentially, it chemically blocks your blood's ability to pick up oxygen and carry that vital gas to cells and



organs. Thus, with doses of CO gas, you are slowly and gently asphyxiated. The process works much more quickly on people with cardiovascular or pulmonary diseases and conditions. For people with heart and lung problems, a dose of CO gas can trigger a heart attack, dangerous coughing spasms, or both.

CO Prevention

With all this in mind, it's a good idea to take steps to prevent CO gas from getting into your living space. "That's why we recommend you have your chimney and furnace flues inspected by a chimney professional at least once a year," says Heeke of the CSIA. She notes chimneys and furnace flues can be blocked during the warmer months by industrious birds or during the heating season by soot and creosote buildups. As these deposits accumulate, it gets harder and harder for combustion by-products to escape, increasing the likelihood of CO gas building up in the house.

Bathroom and cooking range fans can be another reason CO gas will build up within the living space. In modern, tightly sealed houses, a bathroom or cooking-range fan can create *negative pressure* in the house. Although that may sound like a New Age term, it actually means the air being forced out of the house by the fan is being replaced by air coming into the house via the furnace flues and chimney. That air often contains CO gas, particularly during the winter, when all the windows are closed tightly and the furnace runs regularly. To prevent negative pressure, you should crack open a window near the fan while the fan is running.

Indoor space heaters and nonelectric cooking stoves can also be a source of CO gas. The combustion standards for older space heaters and nonelectric cooking stoves (generally speaking, before 1985) were not as stringent as they are today. Likewise, even today's indoor fossil-fuel appliances must be run according to manufacturer specifications, which may include an annual inspection by an appliance technician. You can also roughly check out your appliance's capacity to burn at top efficiency (and thereby reduce CO-gas emissions) by a visual inspection of the flame. Gas appliances must burn with a blue flame throughout. Any yellow in the flame is an indication of incomplete combustion, possible CO-gas emissions and a good reason for a call to an appliance repair technician. In wood-burning appliances, any smell of smoke, soot buildup on viewing ports or the fire dying out on its own is an indication of trouble. Again, contact the appliance's manufacturer or a furnace expert for advice.

Garages are also notorious for introducing CO gas into the living space. Unless your garage is completely detached from the house, there is usually a chance of CO-gas infiltration simply from starting the car in the morning. Obviously, letting a car, lawn mower, generator or other gasoline-burning device run continuously in the garage is a bad idea. Also, burning a charcoal grill, using large amounts of paint stripper or even running the gas grill in the garage is unwise.

To make an attached garage safer, start with blocking off any second-story passageways between the house and the garage. Frequently, even when a builder installs airtight doors between the garage and house on the first floor, the attic spaces are left open. The two buildings should be sealed off from each other. Also be sure to open the garage door before you start your car and, once started, immediately pull the vehicle out. Unlike cars of 20 years ago, today's modern vehicles don't need warm-up time to protect internal engine parts.

Open windows also can be a source of CO gas. Idling lawn mowers, emergency generators and misplaced exhaust ports from chimney-less furnaces have all been sources of CO gas that entered the building and overcame occupants. Prevention in these cases is a matter of exercising a bit of extra caution and/or following manufacturer installation and operation guidelines for the appliance.

CO Detectors

Even if you take all steps possible to prevent CO gas from entering your home, accidents do happen. That's where a CO detector comes in.

"We think every home in America should have at least one carbon-monoxide detector," says Ken Giles, a spokesman for the Consumer Product Safety Commission. He says about 20 percent of homes today have a CO detector in them, compared with 90 percent of homes having one or more smoke alarms in them. "We'd like to see CO detectors as common as smoke detectors," Giles says.

Indeed, some states and municipalities are making CO detectors part of their building-code requirements. New Jersey,

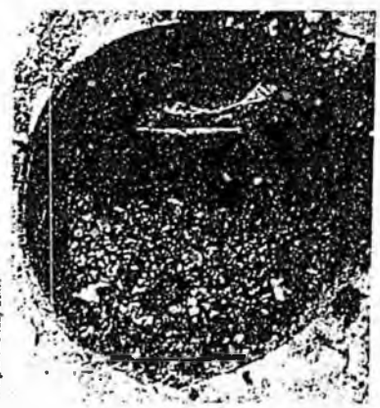


Image courtesy CSIA

Homeowners are able to detect potential CO hazards, such as blocked chimneys, themselves, but they should rely on professionals to remedy such conditions.

CARBON-MONOXIDE LEVELS & SYMPTOMS

Concentration*	Symptom
0 – 10	Usually no symptoms
10 – 20	Headache, angina in heart patients
20 – 30	Throbbing headache, nausea, irritability, difficulty concentrating
30 – 40	Severe headache, dizziness, fatigue, confusion
40 – 50	Rapid breathing and heartbeat, fainting
50 – 60	Respiratory failure (collapse), seizures (collapse)
60 – 70	Severe respiratory failure, low blood pressure, fatal coma
70 +	Rapidly fatal coma

*Percent of hemoglobin carrying CO

Source: BOCA, March/April 1993

New York, Rhode Island and West Virginia now require CO detectors in new housing, as do the cities of St. Louis and Chicago. Additionally, Pennsylvania, Texas, Massachusetts and Oregon are all considering laws requiring CO detectors. Whether required or not, the latest generation of CO detectors is less expensive and more reliable than those used in a Chicago CO-detector experiment of the early 1990s. Those city-mandated detectors were so sensitive, they set off numerous false alarms, running local fire departments ragged.

Today, CO detectors are all either approved by Underwriters' Laboratories (the UL label) or the International Approval Services (the IAS label) to be sensitive to CO gas only when it becomes dangerous for an extended period of time. The alarms are designed to go off when CO levels reach 70 parts per million (ppm) for an hour or more. That level is unlikely to cause symptoms in healthy adults. But for longer periods, or greater ppm levels, or for small children and people with heart or lung problems, that benchmark can be a danger threshold.

At any rate, the ppm reading may be something you want to track while you're at work as well as at home. In that case, it's probably best to purchase a CO detector that digitally displays the CO level in its immediate area. Some models actually remember the peak level in the past 24 hours. Levels of 150 ppm or more for more than 90 minutes will cause symptoms for most anyone. Levels in excess of 400 ppm can cause loss of consciousness and worse.

CO detectors cost between $20 and slightly more than $100, with the vast majority falling in the $35 to $50 range. About half are battery operated, while the rest are plug-in. The less expensive models typically don't offer a digital display of the ppm level. All have a test/reset button, and some have visual alarm options for hearing-impaired users. Virtually all hardware stores and home-product mass marketers offer a variety of models.

Placement of a CO detector in the home requires some thoughtful consideration. Placing it in the furnace room will likely produce some unnecessary alarms, while placing it too far from possible CO sources won't produce an alarm soon enough. Most manufacturers include instructions on the best locations. One on each living level is frequently recommended. It's best to keep them out of the sleeping rooms to give a more advanced warning when you're snoozing. Basement stairwells often give early warnings without causing unnecessary alarms. Living rooms and rooms attached to the garage are also good locations.

In the event a CO detector goes off, immediately get some fresh air circulating in the alarm area. Open a window regardless of the weather outside. Anyone in the alarm area with CO-poisoning symptoms should move to an area of fresh air. If the symptoms persist or other symptoms develop, get the person to a hospital emergency room. ■

Ken Textor is a freelance writer located in Arrowsic, Maine.

Sourdough Fuel

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR CARBON MONOXIDE

What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon Monoxide (commonly referred to as CO) is a colorless, odorless, toxic, flammable, lighter than air gas. It is produced by an incomplete combustion process that can be witnessed in an air tight wood stove or propane burning appliance. In can also be present during any internal combustion process including vehicle engines, heaters and stoves. Even camp fires and smoking tobacco products produce CO.

Carbon Monoxide Properties

CO is colorless and odorless. Therefore it is almost impossible to detect without proper monitoring devices. It has a very wide Flammable Range with a Lower Explosive Limit of 12.5% and an Upper Explosive Limit of 74%. This means that when CO is mixed with air it will ignite in the presence of an ignition source when mixed with air by volume at 12 % through 74% CO concentrations.
CO is lighter than air, it is about .97 compared to air at 1 in weight. It will rise to the upper levels of an enclosure then bank down to the floor levels if not ventilated by natural or mechanical means. CO is a toxic gas. When breathed in it combines with blood much more quickly than oxygen. This can cause toxic reactions and possible death. The amount of CO considered toxic to the human body as well as signs and systems of exposure can be found on the attached Material Safety Data Sheet, commonly referred to as an MSDS.

Sourdough Fuel

1555 Van Horn Rd
Fairbanks, AK
456-7798

Sourdough Fuel

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR CARBON MONOXIDE (Continued)

How do You Reduce or Eliminate Production of CO?

There are many ways to eliminate or reduce the production of CO in your home and the environment. Here are some ways to accomplish this:

#1. Have your gas or oil burning appliances and chimneys inspected by a certified technician annually.

#2. Provide adequate ventilation when using appliances in confined spaces such as your home, garage, camper, motor home, ice fishing house or tent. It is also important to remember that any combustion process uses up oxygen which can result in asphyxiation and promote the production of Carbon Monoxide.

#3. Insure the proper amount of combustion air is available and return air is sufficient for the proper operation of your appliances.

#4. Insure you have no exhaust leaks in your chimney's auto exhaust system.

#5. Have your appliances, vehicles and internal combustion engine equipment tuned up on a regular basis.

#6. Check your appliance pilot lights to insure proper combustion. Refer to your owners manual for proper flame height and color, or consult a certified technician.

#7. Insure proper chimney height and diameters on all heaters and stoves.

Carbon Monoxide Monitors:

It is advisable to install CO Monitors in all areas where CO could be produced. Remember CO is lighter than air and travels up in the air column. Due to air flow in buildings it is not advisable to install CO monitors on a wall or ceiling closer than 8-10 inches from their intersection. There are battery powered, hard wired and color coded monitors available at most hardware or safety supply stores.

If you suspect that you have a CO problem in your heating system or appliance, contact a certified technician for an inspection. If you are experiencing signs and systems of CO exposure leave the involved area and contact your local emergency services.

Sourdough Fuel Heating Division will be glad to assist you in any way possible to insure the proper operation of your heating system. Call 456-7798 for information or assistance.

Sourdough Fuel

1555 Van Horn Rd
Fairbanks, AK
456-7798

pleadings by certified or registered mail to the defendant or respondent at the last ascertainable address of the defendant or respondent. An affidavit of compliance with this section shall be filed with the clerk of the court having jurisdiction on or before the return day for the process, if any, or within any further time allowed by the court. (§ 1 ch 10 SLA 1974)

Revisor's notes. — In 1999, in this section, "commissioner of commerce and economic development" was changed to "commissioner of community and economic development" in accordance with § 88, ch. 58, SLA 1999.

Sec. 34.03.345. Mediation and binding arbitration. (a) A landlord and a tenant may agree to mediate disputes between them as to an obligation of either of them arising out of the rental agreement. If the landlord and tenant agree to mediate disputes, they shall include the scope of the agreement within the executed rental agreement, incorporate a reference to that agreement within the rental agreement, or add the text of the agreement as a separate attachment to the rental agreement.

(b) A landlord and a tenant may agree to binding arbitration of the disputes between them as to an obligation of either of them arising out of the rental agreement. If the landlord and tenant agree to binding arbitration, they shall include the scope of the agreement within the executed rental agreement, incorporate a reference to that agreement within the rental agreement, or add the text of the agreement as a separate attachment to the rental agreement. (§ 34 ch 121 SLA 1994)

Sec. 34.03.350. Attorney fees. Attorney fees shall be allowed to the prevailing party in any proceeding arising out of this chapter, or a rental agreement. (§ 1 ch 10 SLA 1974)

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Cited in Sullivan v. Subramanian, 2 P.3d 66 (Alaska 2000).

Sec. 34.03.360. Definitions. In this chapter,

(1) "abandonment" means that the tenant has left the dwelling unit and the tenant's personal belongings in it and has been absent for a continuous period of seven days or longer without giving notice under AS 34.03.150 and has defaulted in the payment of rent;

(2) "building and housing codes" include any law, ordinance, or governmental regulation concerning fitness for habitation, or the construction, maintenance, operation, occupancy, use, or appearance of a premise or dwelling unit;

(3) "dwelling unit" means a structure or a part of a structure that issued as a home, residence, or sleeping place by one person who maintains a household or by two or more persons who maintain a common household, and includes mobile homes, and if located in a mobile home park, the lot or space upon which a mobile home is placed;

(4) "fair rental value" means the average rental rate in the community for available dwelling units of similar size and features;

(5) "good faith" means honesty in fact in the conduct of the transaction concerned;

(6) "illegal activity involving alcoholic beverages" means a person's delivery of an alcoholic beverage in violation of AS 04.11.010(b) in an area where the results of a local option election have, under AS 04.11.491, prohibited the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board from issuing, renewing, or transferring a liquor license or permit under AS 04;

(7) "illegal activity involving a controlled substance" means a violation of AS 11.71.010(a), 11.71.020(a), 11.71.030(a)(1) or (2), or 11.71.040(a)(1), (2), or (5);

(8) "illegal activity involving gambling or promoting gambling" means a violation of:

(A) AS 11.66.200, other than a social game as that term is defined by AS 11.66.280(9); and

(B) AS 11.66.

(9) "illegal ac
AS 11.73.010 —

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(B) AS 11.66.210 or 11.66.220;

(9) "illegal activity involving an imitation controlled substance" means a violation of AS 11.73.010 — 11.73.030;

(10) "illegal activity involving a place of prostitution" means a violation of AS 11.66.120(a)(1) or 11.66.130(a)(1) or (4);

(11) "landlord" means the owner, lessor, or sublessor of the dwelling unit or the building of which it is a part, and it also means a manager of the premises who fails to disclose as required by AS 34.03.080;

(12) "organization" includes a corporation, government, governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership or association, two or more persons having a joint or common interest, and any other legal entity;

(13) "owner" means one or more persons, jointly or severally, in whom is vested all or part of the legal title to property or all or part of the beneficial ownership of property and a right to present use of the premises; the term includes a mortgagee in possession;

(14) "premises" means a dwelling unit and the structure of which it is a part and facilities and appurtenances in it and grounds, areas, and facilities held out for the use of tenants generally or whose use is promised to the tenant;

(15) "prepaid rent" means that amount of money demanded by the landlord at the initiation of the tenancy for the purpose of ensuring that rent will be paid, but does not include the first month's rent or money received as security for damage;

(16) "prostitution" means an act in violation of AS 11.66.100;

(17) "rent" means the uniform periodic payment due the landlord, however denominated;

(18) "rental agreement" means all agreements, written or oral, and valid rules and regulations adopted under AS 34.03.130 embodying the terms and conditions concerning the use and occupancy of a dwelling unit and premises;

(19) "sanitary facility" means a flush toilet and proper drainage for all toilets, sinks, basins, bathtubs, and showers;

(20) "single family residence" means a structure maintained and used as a single dwelling unit;

(21) "tenant" means a person entitled under a rental agreement to occupy a dwelling unit to the exclusion of others;

(22) "undeveloped rural area" means an area where public sewer or water services are not available. (§ 1 ch 10 SLA 1974; am § 62 ch 21 SLA 1991; am §§ 35, 37 ch 121 SLA 1994; am § 67 ch 101 SLA 1995)

Revisor's notes. — The paragraphs added by ch. 121, SLA 1994 were renumbered to maintain the alphabetical order of the terms defined.

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Good faith in eviction for change of use of land. — There was no showing that park operators acted in bad faith in ordering the eviction of tenant's mobile home for the purpose of changing the use of the land where it was established that, following the eviction, there was, in fact, a change in the use; evidence that the operators wanted to evict tenants because they found the mobile home unsightly did not, standing alone, support an inference that the operators acted in bad faith. Sharpe v. Trail, 902 P.2d 304 (Alaska 1995).

"Landlord" failing to "terminate" tenancies. — Apartment owner who sold the premises and took a second mortgage on them was the "landlord" and liable for tenants' security deposits, even though he never received them from the purchaser, where he had failed to "terminate" the tenancies of the tenants by giving them notice of his nonjudicial foreclosure. Alaska Teamster-Employer Pension Trust v. Wise, 120 Bankr. 537 (Bankr. D. Alaska 1990).

Term "rental agreement" not used in connection with month-to-month tenancies. — While "rental agreement" is defined in this section as "all agreements . . . embodying the terms and conditions concerning the use and occupancy of a dwelling unit . . .," the term "rental agreement" is not used in the uniform act in connection with month-to-month tenancies. McCall v. Fickes, 556 P.2d 535 (Alaska 1976).

AS 34.03.020(d) fixes a month-to-month tenancy, in absence of agreement by the parties to a different term in the rental agreement, if rent is paid on a monthly basis. McCall v. Fickes, 556 P.2d 535 (Alaska 1976).

Toxic leak blamed for man's death, wife's poisoning

Police and fire vehicles responded to the scene on Spruce Brook Street, where toxic fumes had been reported in the second house from the right. (Photo by Brian Blockcolsky/KTUU)

By Steve MacDonald
KTUU-TV
Updated: 1:00 a.m. ET Feb. 26, 2004

Feb. 25 - A South Anchorage man is dead and his wife is in critical condition after a toxic gas leaked into their home. Fire investigators say it appears carbon monoxide poisoned the couple, but they are still conducting tests to confirm their suspicions.

The husband and wife, whose names haven't been released yet, were found at about 12:30 p.m. Wednesday by an Anchorage police officer. Police went to the home on Spruce Brook Street after the couple's son in New York told police he hadn't been able to reach them.

"The son had reported that he had been trying to contact his parents for three days without success, and the male victim had not shown for work in three days," said Tom Kempton of the Anchorage Fire Department.

Officer Jackie Valdez broke into the home to find the woman unconscious downstairs and dragged her outside to safety. The man's body was found upstairs.

According to the fire department, Valdez complained of feeling dizzy and was also hospitalized. A police spokesman says both women are conscious and are expected to recover.

The fire department says it suspects a car in the home's attached garage may have been the source of the poisoning. Investigators say the keys were in the ignition, and the ignition was in the on position.

MORE LOCAL LINKS

- What's Cookin' with Chef Al
- Market View
- Channel 2 News Webcast
- Alaska's Fiveday Forecast
- The Forgotten War
- Alaska Event Calendar
- The Snowmachine Report

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- Juneau
- Other Citites

MADD
Activism | Victim Services | Education™

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
JUNEAU CHAPTER
211 4th St., Suite 314
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone (907)463-2562
Fax (907)463-2540
madd@alaska.net
www.madd.org/ak/juneau

February 10, 2004

Representative Tom Anderson
State Capitol, room 432
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: House Bill 423
"An Act relating to accidents involving the vehicle of a person under the influence of an alcoholic beverage; and providing for an effective date."

Dear Representative Anderson:

The MADD Alaska Chapters, *Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and Mat-Su*, support House Bill 423.

House Bill 423 will encourage and protect designated drivers. It is imperative that support is provided for those who drive potential drunk drivers to their destination. A designated driver is "life insurance" for all who use our road system.

House Bill 423 would create a deterrent for those who might otherwise drive impaired if unable to find an alternative method of transportation.

While annual alcohol-related traffic fatalities have decreased by more than 33 percent over the past few decades, the latest statistics show a recent increase with more than 17,400 people killed and more than half a million others injured in alcohol-related crashes in 2002.

Alaska had 87 traffic deaths of which 35 were alcohol-related(40%) in 2002. The previous year our state lost 47 Alaskans out of 89 (53%) because of alcohol.

Sincerely,

Cindy Cashen

Cindy Cashen

Executive Director

Presents

"OFF THE ROAD PROGRAM"

A free ride home for you and your car
Let us all add safety to our community. Together we can make Anchorage a safer place to live.

ANCHORAGE Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant, and Retailers Association (CHARR)
OFF THE ROAD PROGRAM

Our Vision:

Anchorage CHARR, a unified financially sound organization to protect, foster and grow the hospitality industry serving a strong membership and to maintain a positive relationship with the Anchorage community.

Our Mission:

Our mission is to serve and represent the hospitality industry within the Municipality of Anchorage. Collaborate with responsible members, stakeholders, and businesses as a vital part of the community.

Our Concerns:

Unintentional acts created by patron drivers of vehicles under the influence that may be harmful to other members of the community. This may occur when:

- **A patron has a need for their vehicle the following morning and does not want the inconvenience of collecting the vehicle.**
- **Vehicles can be towed for a number of reasons thus incurring unwanted costs.**
- **There is also the possibility the vehicle could be vandalized and/or burglarized.**
- **Simply the patron choose not to pay or can not pay for the cost of a taxi.**

"These are reasons some patrons may justify drinking and driving"

Our Solution:

To provide a safe mode of transportation for the patron and his/her vehicle. This service can be requested by the patron or by the determination of the establishment to limit liabilities and to protect the general public. This accompaniment program would be provided by the municipal licensed chauffeurs (taxi cab drivers).

- **Transportation provided from the establishment to the patrons home.**
- **Patron and vehicle arrive home safe together.**
- **Limited or no cost to the patron for this service.**
- **Educate establishment staff and public of the availability of this program and the benefits that it provides.**

ANCHORAGE CHARR
CABARET, HOTEL, RESTAURANT & RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

January 21, 2004

In order for this program to be successful the cab companies and the liquor establishments must work and communicate closely. To help facilitate this program, the establishments will implement the following strategies and policies:

1. Place signs near pay phones, direct lines to cab companies and in other conspicuous areas of the establishment such as restrooms and near the exits where signs can be easily read.
2. Train the establishment staff members on the availability of this program, how to inform patrons, and how to implement the procedures agreed upon by program officials.
3. Make public service announcements (PSA) on in-house sound systems (if establishment is equipped) from time to time and at closing time to help influence patrons decisions to use the program.
4. Pay a portion of the cab fare cost agreed upon by establishments and program officials.
5. Promote program from time to time in conjunction with other advertising and promotions. Make program informational hand outs available to patrons in the establishments.
6. Track program usage (in conjunction with the cab companies) to assess effectiveness and demographics and to provide informational statistics for program officials to use in promoting and or improving this program.

Anchorage CHARR feels, with the establishments implementing these strategies and policies will help assure the success of this exciting and new collaboration.

John G. Pattee
Anchorage CHARR

RNT Services D.B.A.Checker Cab Company
3215 Mountain View Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3108
Office (907) 274-3333 Fax (907) 258-7775 24 Hour Dispatch (907) 276-1234

Regarding: **Off The Road Program**

In order for this program to work and be successful the Restraunt's, Lounge's and all Taxicab Companies **MUST** work together and communicate closely with everyone. To help facilitate this, Checker Cab Company will implement the following procedure and policies:

1. We will have a minimum of six (6) designated taxi drivers on duty every night to be available for this program.

2. We will set a flat rate fee of $40.00 per car deliveries made from any licensed establishment to one (1) destination in the Anchorage Area, for **BOTH** the patron and his/her vehicle.

3. Every Car Delivery that we do will be logged into a log book in the Dispatch office as it comes in, so it will be easy to track our progress with this program and how well it is working to benefit the Anchorage Community.

4. Train All Taxicab Drivers and Dispatch Employees with our Company about this program, incase designated driver's are not available they will be able to cover the car delivery safely.

5. Promote, with all the taxi drivers help, how this program is available to **ALL Customers** headed to any drinking establishment in the Anchorage Area, A Safe and Convenient way to enjoy all licensed establishments and not have to worry about retrieving their vehicle the next day if it has not been towed away.

RNT Services and Checker Cab Company feel that this program will work to help solve some of the drinking and driving problems that exist here in the Anchorage Area and will make the Community a much safer community for everyone to live in.

Nancy R Brockway
Owner – RNT Services
Office Manager – Checker Cab Company

Bill jumps 'Off the Road' hurdle

■ DRUNK: Program would see car, driver home by cabbie.

The Associated Press

JUNEAU — Drunken drivers and their vehicles could get a ride home if a bill that passed the House on Tuesday has its intended effect.

State Rep. Norm Rokeberg, R-Anchorage, introduced the bill, which limits liability for taxis transporting drunken drivers' cars. He said he's trying to clear the way for an Anchorage program called "Off the Road" to get off the ground.

The Downtown Licensed Beverage Association, the Downtown Partnership and corporate sponsors have pitched in to fund the program, which would pay for cab drivers to take both an individual and his car home from participating downtown bars, Rokeberg said.

The program should remove one obstacle that prevents drunken drivers from giving up their keys, Rokeberg said.

"Many drivers are really reluctant to leave their dearest possession, sometimes their vehicle, in a parking lot," Rokeberg said.

Often they need their car to get to work the next day, they worry about vandalism or they fear it will be towed, he said.

High insurance costs have kept the "Off the Road" program from starting, Rokeberg said. He said insurance would have cost taxi companies $1,000 per month per cab.

The bill exempts cab drivers operating the drunken drivers' vehicle from liability in an accident except in cases of gross negligence or reckless or intentional misconduct.

The vehicle owner's insurance would still have to pay for damages in an accident, the same as if the owner had been driving.

Rep. Eric Croft, D-Anchorage, said that provision removed his concern about the bill. Without it, he said, he had feared accident victims would have no recourse.

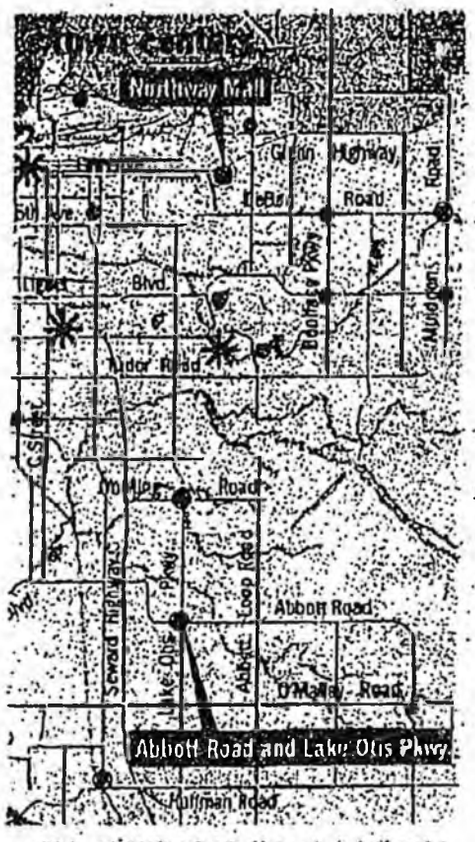
The bill passed the House 37-0. Rep. John Davies, D-Fairbanks, gave notice of reconsideration of his vote, so the measure could come up for a final vote today. After that, it would go to the Senate.

The measure is House Bill 68.

In other news at the Capitol on Tuesday:

• The House State Affairs Committee approved House Joint Resolution 30, by Rep. Pete Kott, R-Eagle River. It urges the U.S. Congress to begin the process of amending the U.S. Constitution to prohibit desecration of the U.S. flag.

• Groups on both sides of the abortion issue held rallies on the Capitol steps to commemorate the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in the United States.



mix of shopping, public facilities and medium- to high-density
a focal point for seven sub-areas in the Anchorage Bowl

ice of the Times
A CONSERVATIVE VOICE FOR ALASKANS

WILLIAM J. TOBIN
Senior editor

DUI taxi bill a positive approach

By FRANK DAHL

The early part of the year is a time for reflection, for many reasons. Many of us center on our faith and family and lives; but also on our dedication and responsibility to each other. House Bill 68 is a perfect example of taking responsibility one step further by truly watching out for our friends and patrons. And the state House agrees, as they recently passed the bill to the state Senate.

Sponsored by Rep. Norm Rokeberg, this proposed legislation will help reduce our DUI (driving under the influence of alcohol) problem. The premise behind Rep. Rokeberg's proposal is that people fail to find an alternative means of transportation when they are legally intoxicated because they do not wish to incur the cost of a cab, risk vandalism to their vehicle or be hindered by retrieval of their vehicle the next morning. With no "perceived" alternative, they opt to drive home intoxicated. Many arrive safely at home, but for those who are arrested, or cause an accident or injury, the consequences surpass the negligible cost of a cab or time spent returning the next day sober to locate the car.

Dahl

Proposed by the Anchorage Downtown Partnership and Downtown License Beverage Association, the concept is to provide a means through which an intoxicated individual, hesitant to drive because he/she is above the legal limit (.08 blood-alcohol content), can ask an employee at the participating bar or restaurant to request cab service for himself and his vehicle. The participating cab company will dispatch a cab with an extra driver who will subsequently drive the patron's vehicle home at the same time the intoxicated patron is driven home in the cab. Not a bad idea. And best of all, public safety is not compromised.

Not only does this solution instill a partnership mentality between community, patron and business, but it also reminds residents of the fact that the hospitality industry cares about your safety. Anchorage Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant & Retailers Association, for example, wholeheartedly endorses the concept. And many establishments have endorsed the bill and are eager to participate upon enactment of the program. In the end, it's a win-win for everyone.

One concern that has arisen stems from the potential for a lawsuit if the cab company employee, who drives the individual's vehicle home, causes an accident from negligence. The context of the bill is intended to hold harmless the driver, cab company and licensed establishment if intentional misconduct is not a factor. In other words, no one will be liable for acting responsibly. To that end, we must formulate effective insurance language in the bill to maintain the integrity of the no-liability intent.

During troubled times, members of society tend to find it easier to cast the first stone, rather than seek lasting solutions to issues like alcohol abuse and DUI prevention. The easiest approach is to criticize our laws and legislators, and be reactive, rather than proactive. Or, mandate harsher penalties and fill our correctional system beyond its capacity while increasing our need for more taxes.

But sometimes, no matter how hard one tries, it is impossible to understand the mindset of why people do what they do. Drunks don't make thought-out decisions. They act and react. Driving under the influence is no exception. Many of us are guilty of bad judgment. The solution lies in curbing behavior with quality treatment and education, or, as an alternative, preventing behavior like driving under the influence from even happening.

HB 68 eliminates the consequence of a DUI, while at the same time partnering the hospitality industry with the cab industry with the insurance industry, in concert with law enforcement at the city and state level. The innovators and sponsor of this bill should be commended for a novel and positive approach to a growing problem that doesn't need to exist.

HB 68 is right on target for a controllable problem. And it will save the state of Alaska real tax dollars.

Let 2002 be the year of understanding, neighbor helping neighbor. Let this year be one in which we stop casting stones and instead, embrace using the stones to build a bridge of cooperation. HB 68 can be the first step.

Frank Dahl is president of the Anchorage Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant and Retailers Association (CHARR).

Anchorage CHARR
OFF THE ROAD PROGRAM
Budget

Category	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Operation:							
Salaries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Payroll taxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Accounting	500	500	500	500	500	500	3000
Tax return preparation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bank charges	100	100	100	100	100	100	600
Advertising (events)	0	0	14,000	16,000	0	0	30000
Printing	0	0	8,000	0	2,000	0	10000
Entertainment	100	100	100	100	100	100	600
Telephone	50	50	50	50	50	50	300
Utilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Repairs & Maint.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Administrative O.H.	2312.5	2312.5	2312.5	2312.5	2312.5	2312.5	13875
Medical Insurance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insurance - other	500	500	500	500	500	500	3000
Legal	4000		2000	0	0	2000	8000
Transportation cost	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	36000
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Operations	13562.5	9562.5	33562.5	25562.5	11562.5	11562.5	105375

BUDGET
Continuation

Category	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total
Operation:							
Salaries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Payroll taxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Accounting	500	500	500	500	500	500	3000
Tax return preparation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bank charges	100	100	100	100	100	100	600
Advertising (events)	0	0	14,000	16,000	0	0	30000
Printing	0	0	8,000	0	2,000	0	10000
Entertainment	100	100	100	100	100	100	600
Telephone	50	50	50	50	50	50	300
Utilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Repairs & Maint.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Administrative O.H.	2312.5	2312.5	2312.5	2312.5	2312.5	2312.5	13875
Medical Insurance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insurance - other	500	500	500	500	500	500	3000
Legal	4000		2000	0	0	2000	8000
Transportation cost	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	36000
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Operations	13562.5	9562.5	33562.5	25562.5	11562.5	11562.5	105375

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
Bill Version: CSSSHB 68(JUD)
(H) Publish Date: 1/22/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: Law
Title "An Act relating to accidents involving the vehicle of a person under the influence of an alcoholic ..."
BRU Civil Division
Component Special Litigation
Sponsor Representative Rokeberg
Requester House Judiciary Committee
Component No. 2213

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type–Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0
Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

CSSS HB 68 (JUD) prevents anyone from bringing a civil action for personal injury, death, or property damage against the driver when the driver holds a taxicab or limousine permit, or is the owner or other employee of a taxicab or limousine company, and is involved in a motor vehicle accident while driving an intoxicated owner's vehicle to the owner's residence from a licensed premises at the request of the owner or a law enforcement officer. The immunity from civil liability does not extend to cases of gross negligence or reckless or intentional misconduct.

Passage of this legislation will have no fiscal impact on the Department of Law.

Prepared by: Joan M. Kasson
Phone (907) 465-5370
Division Attorney General's Office
Date/Time 1/17/02 10:57 AM
Approved by: *Bob Meiners* for Bruce M. Botelho, Attorney General
Date 1/17/2002
Agency Department of Law

(Revised 9/2001 OMB)

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Anchorage Daily News

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Man found dead; wife rescued

TREATED: Officer faints after entering house, but later tests reveal no poison gases.

By PETER PORCO
Anchorage Daily News
(Published: February 26, 2004)

Carbon monoxide poisoning is suspected in the death of a man whose body was found Wednesday afternoon in an upstairs bedroom of a new lower Hillside home, the Anchorage Fire Department said.

The man's wife was found unconscious inside the front door of the house, and the police officer who discovered the couple became ill soon afterward and fainted, according to Anchorage police.

A van was found in the attached garage with its ignition in the on position, although its engine was not running, said Tom Kempton, the fire department spokesman.

Authorities were withholding the names of the man and his wife, both in their 50s, Wednesday evening.

The woman and officer Jackie Valdez were being treated at a local hospital. Both were "conscious and appear as if they will fully recover," Anchorage Police Department spokesman Ron McGee said in the late afternoon.

Anchorage firefighters responded to a call at 8739 Spruce Brook Road where police discovered a dead man and a woman in critical condition Wednesday afternoon. A van was found inside the attached garage with its ignition in the on position but the engine not running. *(Photo by Jim Lavrakas / Anchorage Daily News)*

Click on photo to enlarge

The couple moved into the house, on Spruce Brook Street in the new Little Brook subdivision north of Abbott Road, sometime after Thanksgiving, according to what a neighbor told investigators.

Their house, like others on the block, is a two-story frame structure with a two-car attached garage on the ground floor. It and a few others on the street remain unfinished, their exteriors un painted.

The couple's son, who lives in New York City, called Anchorage police Wednesday morning to say he had been trying for three days to contact his parents without success, according to McGee.

The son also told police his father had not shown up at work in all that time, which is highly unusual. The man asked police to check on his family.

Valdez arrived about 12:20 p.m. Looking in a front entry window, she saw the woman on the floor near the door, McGee said.

Valdez forced the locked door open and went inside. She climbed the stairs and found the husband dead, said Kempton. She began to get dizzy, came down the stairs, grabbed the woman and pulled her outside the house, he said.

By then, other officers and an engine company were there. Valdez fainted in front of the other officers, said McGee.

Valdez, 39, has been with APD for seven years. She declined to be interviewed.

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is a colorless, odorless gas that is a byproduct of the incomplete combustion of natural gas and other fuels. CO ingestion can be fatal.

Soon after the man's body was removed, fire department specialists tested the house for hazardous substances, said Kempton.

Those tests detected no significant levels of any gas, including carbon monoxide, Kempton said.

On the second floor, where the man's body was found, CO levels were at 4 parts per million.

"But that's nothing; it's considered essentially background," he said. "And on the lower level they got zero."

A technician from Enstar Natural Gas Co. inspected the gas-fired appliances and also found nothing amiss.

"All appliances and other items that could have caused carbon monoxide production were checked and eliminated as a source of carbon monoxide," Kempton said.

It was unclear why Valdez became ill and yet, soon afterward, no toxic substances were detected.

The man's body was being autopsied by the state medical examiner, Dr. Franc Fallico.

Blood specimens from the man were rushed to a hospital laboratory late Wednesday afternoon for toxicology tests, said Fallico.

"This is unusual because I'm hand-carrying them, to cut through the red tape," Fallico said. "We need to get this information to the police right away."

The toxicology results, however, remained unavailable Wednesday night.

The Fire Department is still investigating the case, Kempton said. The agency's hypothesis that carbon monoxide felled the man and injured his wife was based on several facts: the key in the ignition of the van being in the on position, the house was shut and no other gases were present.

"Carbon monoxide poisoning is the working theory," Kempton said.

The house did not have any CO detectors, he said.

In early December, a family of five in Bear Valley on the Anchorage Hillside were all killed by CO poisoning. Their house's heating system was shut down during remodeling work and may have created deadly conditions after being turned back on.

Officials said a mix of circumstances caused the upper floors of their house to draw the deadly gas from the boiler room and spread it around the living area. Their home also lacked CO sensors.

"Every house should have a carbon monoxide detector," said Kempton.

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