HB

351

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 04/28/04

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 5/2/04

State Affairs Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 351(JUD)

HB 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."

and recommends:

[ ] be **replaced** with _____ **CS** _____ (_____)

[ ] adopt **previous** _____ **CS** _____ (_____)

[ ] attached amendment(s)

[ ] adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee

[ ] further referral to _____ Committee

Senate Bill:
[ ] Same Title
[ ] New Title

House Bill:
[ ] Same Title
[ ] Technical Title Change
[ ] New Title w/ SCR #_____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
H. L&C	1/26/04			✓	1
Law	1/20/04			✓	2
DPS	1/30/04			✓	3

[ ] **APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note**

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	✓			
	✓			
	✓			
CHAIR:	✓			

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: CSHB 351(L&C)
(H) Publish Date: 1/26/2004

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: Josh Applebee
Phone
Division: Committee Aide
Date/Time: 1/26/04 11:35 AM
Approved by: Representative Anderson, Chair
Date: 1/26/2004
Agency: House Labor and Commerce Committee

(Revised 9/2003 OMB)

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
Bill Version: CSHB 351(STA)
(H) Publish Date: 3/1/04

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: 3
Bill Version: CSHB 351(STA)
(H) Publish Date: 3/1/04

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

Representative Max Gruenberg **Representative Carl Gatto**

SPONSOR STATEMENT

CSHB 351 (JUD)
Carbon Monoxide Detection Devices

The recent deaths of all five members of an Anchorage family from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning in their home prompted introduction of House Bill 351, which will require CO detectors to be installed and maintained in most Alaskan homes. The need for the bill was tragically reinforced by the CO poisoning death in another Anchorage family in February. HB 351 adds CO detection devices to the requirement in state law that homeowners install and maintain smoke detectors, and requires that landlords will install the devices and tenants will maintain them.

According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, CO poisoning is the leading cause of accidental poisoning in America, annually, claiming the lives of 1,500-2,000 people 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.

CO detectors are essential because CO is invisible to the human senses. It is odorless, tasteless, colorless, and non-irritating. Without a CO detector, one doesn't know they're being poisoned.

The Judiciary CS makes two changes to the State Affairs CS. First, it narrows the title to cover CO detection devices only. Second, it provides that a failure to install and maintain a CO detector is not a class "B" misdemeanor, but only a "violation" under AS 18.81.900, which makes it a non-criminal offense punishable by a fine up to $500, the lowest penalty under Title 12.

Representatives Carl Gatto and Max Gruenberg have co-introduced this bill in order to help save lives and to prevent CO injuries.

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

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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.

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."

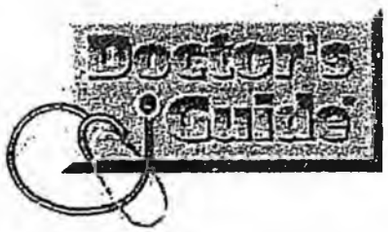
Dr. Jerrold B. Leikin
Director of Medical Toxicology, Evanston Northwestern Healthcare-OMEGA
"Carbon monoxide has no odor, and is not irritating at all, and targets the brain for its poisoning capabilities, so that you can be overcome by carbon monoxide and not even know it...carbon monoxide detectors 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.



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.

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Municipality of Anchorage

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Mark Begich, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 17, 2004
2004-18

Contact: Julie Hasquet
343-7103

CO DETECTOR ORDINANCE TAKES EFFECT IN ANCHORAGE

New law designed to reduce risk of accidental poisoning

Joined by members of the Anchorage Homebuilders Association and the Anchorage Fire Department, Mayor Mark Begich and Assembly Chairman Dick Traini today signed a new ordinance requiring carbon monoxide detectors in all Anchorage homes.

The new law, passed unanimously by the Assembly last night, impacts all existing and new construction. It requires one carbon monoxide detector outside of the sleeping rooms, on each level of a home.

In a ceremony at the city's Building Permit Center, Mayor Begich said the new ordinance was prompted by the deaths of the five-member Arts family in December, and by the fatal carbon monoxide poisoning of an Anchorage man in his Hillside home last month. The man's wife survived, but also suffered serious impacts from CO poisoning.

"The recent deaths in our city have prompted many to ask what we can all do to address this problem," said Begich. "This regulation requiring the installation of CO detectors on each floor, outside of any sleeping area is part of the answer. I applaud the Assembly, the Fire Department, members of the Homebuilders Association and our city building staff in working together to get this legislation passed quickly."

Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America, according to the Centers for Disease Control. An estimated 2,100 lives are lost each year to the odorless, tasteless, invisible gas. But experts say with proper education and installation of carbon monoxide alarms, families could greatly reduce their risk.

After the deaths of the Arts family in December, the Mayor's office raised $31,000 in corporate donations and purchased hundreds of CO detectors which were given away free to low and moderate income families.

###

children at 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

Subject: CO Legislation
Date: Tue, 20 Jan 2004 08:49:35 -0900
From: mhayashi <mhayashi@gci.net>
To: Representative_Carl_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us

Representative Gatto:
or "Carl", as I used to call you in the Providence Emergency Department.
Alaska SAFE KIDS supports your effort to introduce CO Detector legislation in Alaska.

After working in emergency nursing for nearly 38 years and being the statewide Alaska SAFE KIDS State Coalition Coordinator for 15 years,
it is evident that CO poisoning is a preventable injury/death for Alaska citizens.
It is also evident that the general population knows little about how to protect themselves.

The recent terrible tragedy in Anchorage brought needed attention to this issue.
SAFE KIDS, volunteed time, along with the Alaska Injury Prevention Center, and First Alert, giving out information on detectors and CO poisoning at the Home Depot. We spoke with over 150++ individuals about the issues.
So little was generally known. Nearly everyone who needed detectors, bought one, two, or three.
Still, some didn't, saying they would eventually get to it.

Moving to legislation really does bring the same deserved attention to CO as we now have with smoke detectors.
Thank you, Carl, for your work.

Peggy Hayashi, RN
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April 16, 2004

Senator Con Bunde
Chairman, Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Room 506
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Bunde,

The American Lung Association of Alaska enthusiastically supports House Bill 351, requiring carbon monoxide detectors in Alaskan homes. ALAA is the lead agency in Alaska in the fight for lung health and has been active in educating the public about the importance of CO detectors, especially during the winter months.

ALAA views this legislation as an important step for Alaskans to protect their families from carbon monoxide poisoning, the leading cause of accidental poisoning in the United States. Tragically, nearly 300 Americans die every year and thousands more seek medical attention from carbon monoxide exposure in their homes.

However, we can protect ourselves from what can become a deadly problem. Requiring carbon monoxide detectors in our homes is a simple step toward preventing any more tragedies like we've seen this winter in Anchorage and we urge your support.

Sincerely,

Christie Garbe, CEO
American Lung Association of Alaska

Alaska Home Building Association Legislative Talking Points

HB340 by Representative Meyer – "Relating to damages for a defect in the design, construction and remodeling of certain dwellings."
ASHBA voted to support as Priority #1 on January 9, 2004. HB340 was approved 37-1 by the House of Representatives on February 19th. It is scheduled in the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee for Thursday, March 4th, at 1:30 PM. Committee members are:

Senator Con Bunde (R-Anchorage), Chairman
Senator Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak)
Senator Hollis French (D-Anchorage)
Senator Ralph Seekins (R-Fairbanks)
Senator Bettye Davis (D-Anchorage)

Please thank these Senators for scheduling a hearing so quickly, and let them know what is happening to your business due to general liability insurance rates.

HB289 by Representative McGuire – "Relating to the bonding and insurance requirements for contractors, general contractors, specialty contractors, and subcontractors."
ASHBA Board of Directors voted to oppose this bill. To date, it has **not** been scheduled for a hearing in the House Labor & Commerce Committee. This bill would require a 10-fold increase in bonding requirements for contractors and sub-contractors. ASHBA members have expressed concern about raising bonding requirements while general liability and worker's comp increase rates continue to skyrocket.

"Handyman" Issue
In Alaska, "handyman" is a commonly used term for 1,678 businesses providing construction services without a contractor's registration – or "Construction-related EXEMPT from contractor registration" business license. Draft legislation is being prepared by ASHBA to change contractor registration/residential endorsement violations to civil penalties subject to prosecution and execution through an administrative hearing officer. Research on the cost of additional enforcement efforts, and increases in registration fees for contractors is being done.

HB351 by Representatives Gatto & Gruenberg – "Relating to devices, including carbon monoxide detection devices required in dwellings."
ASHBA voted to strongly support this bill (a resolution is being prepared). It has moved through the Labor & Commerce and State Affairs Committees, and was referred to the House Finance Committee.

HB421 by Representative Anderson – "Relating to reconveyances of deeds of trust".
This bill would allow a title insurance company to reconvey and record a deed of trust through a procedure in the event a beneficiary of the deed did not timely record the conveyance. ASHBA voted to support HB421, which is waiting to be scheduled in House Labor & Commerce.

Cold Climate Housing Research Center funding – approve $500,000 capital budget request under Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.
Governor Murkowski's budget requests funding in the capital budget for Energy Efficiency Monitoring Research. By using AHFC Corporate Funds, CCHRC is working with industry groups, local governments, the State, and federal agencies toward solving some of the serious technological challenges of building homes in a northern climate. CCHRC is subject to high performance measures and results, and is providing practical building solutions in the diverse climates across the entire state of Alaska.

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 tc 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
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