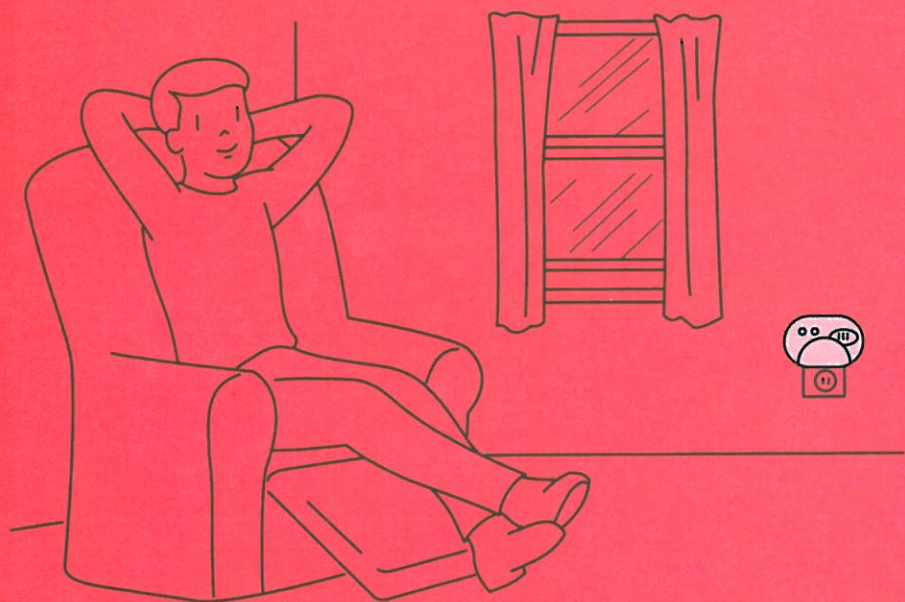


# ABOUT CARBON MONOXIDE



# WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE (CO\*)?

It's an odorless, colorless gas  
produced by burning fuel.

In the home, dangerous levels of CO can  
occur if fuel-burning appliances are:

## NOT WORKING PROPERLY

CO can build up if furnaces,  
water heaters and other  
appliances are:

- improperly installed  
or maintained
- damaged
- not working right for  
any reason.

## USED INCORRECTLY

People must use fuel-  
burning appliances:

- according to the  
manufacturer's instructions
- with proper ventilation
- only for their  
intended purpose.

If operating instructions  
and safety warnings are  
not followed, a serious  
CO problem can develop.

**Vehicles and other fuel-burning equipment  
in and around the home also produce CO.**



\*CO is the chemical  
name for carbon  
monoxide.

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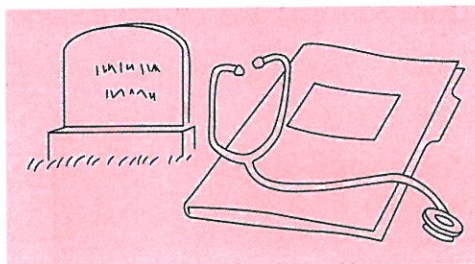
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# WHY SHOULD I LEARN ABOUT CO?

Because CO can poison you and your loved ones if it builds up—it can be deadly.

## EACH YEAR, HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE DIE

from CO poisoning. Thousands more get sick and need medical treatment. Some suffer lasting harm, including brain damage.

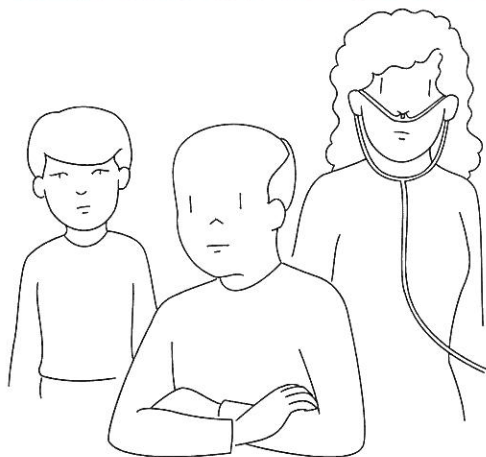


## SOME PEOPLE ARE AT GREATER RISK

for CO poisoning. They include:

- children and unborn babies
- older people
- people with anemia or heart or lung diseases.

But anyone can suffer from CO poisoning. Animals can, too.



Fortunately, there are ways to prevent CO poisoning in the home—and keep everyone safe!

### Please read:

Talk to a professional! This booklet is not a substitute for the advice of a qualified expert.

Read on...



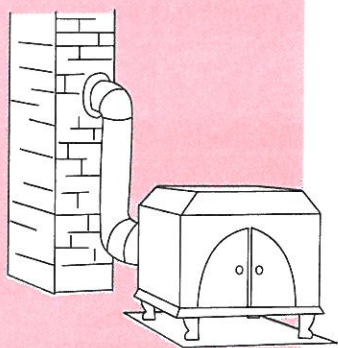
## WHAT ARE THE MAIN SOURCES OF CO?

Any appliance or vehicle that runs on oil, natural gas, kerosene, propane, coal, wood or gasoline can produce CO. Common sources of CO around the home include:

### FURNACES AND WATER HEATERS

that burn oil, propane or  
natural gas

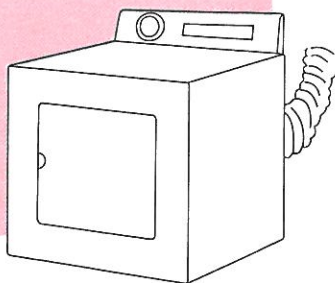
### FIREPLACES AND WOOD STOVES



### GAS RANGES AND OVENS

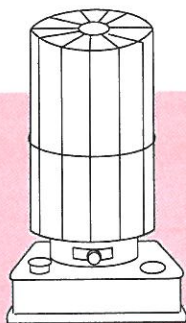


### GAS DRYERS



## SPACE HEATERS

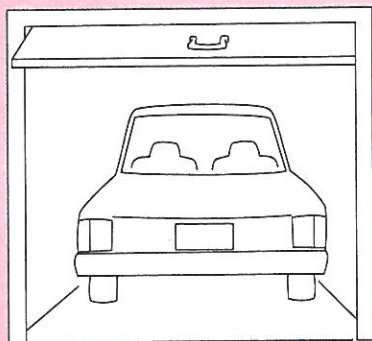
that run on fuel,  
especially kerosene



## CHARCOAL OR GAS GRILLS



## VEHICLES

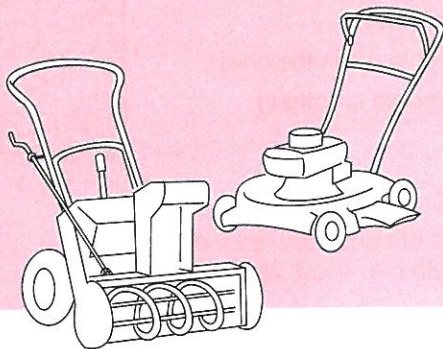


## YARD EQUIPMENT

with gasoline-powered engines,  
including lawn mowers, snow  
blowers and chain saws.

## VENTILATION PROBLEMS

from chimneys, flues and  
vents used with furnaces,  
water heaters, fireplaces  
or wood stoves can also  
cause CO to build up.



When installed and maintained properly, fuel-burning appliances and vehicles produce very little CO. But if not working properly or used incorrectly, they can produce dangerous amounts.

## WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF CO POISONING?

The symptoms may be mistaken for the flu or other illnesses.

### AT LOW LEVELS,

symptoms may include:

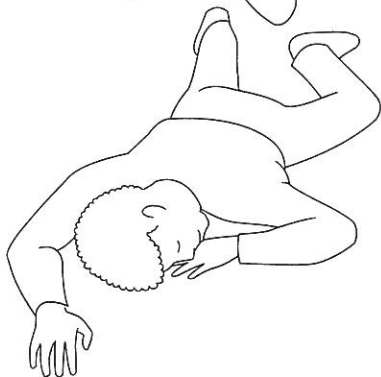
- headache
- fatigue
- sleepiness
- weakness
- nausea
- vomiting
- dizziness
- confusion
- tightness in the chest
- trouble breathing.



### AT HIGH LEVELS,

loss of consciousness, coma and death can occur within a short time.

Exposure to lower levels of CO over several hours can be just as dangerous as exposure to higher levels for a few minutes.



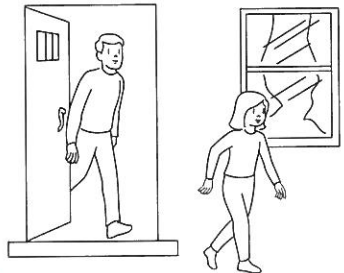
If you or any member of your household has symptoms:

### GET FRESH AIR IMMEDIATELY

Everyone should get out of the building at once.

### CALL FOR HELP

Dial 9-1-1 or your local emergency number from a nearby phone.

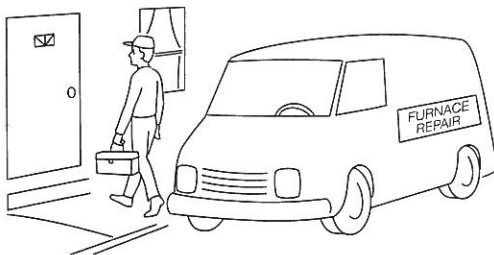
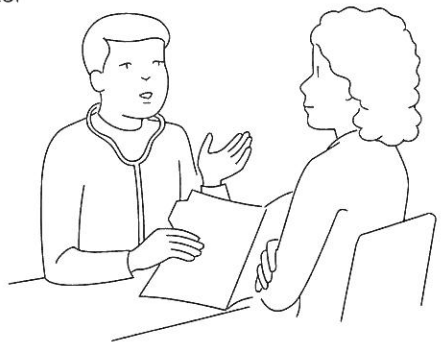


### SEEK MEDICAL HELP RIGHT AWAY

Get help even if you or others feel better after leaving your home. To help diagnose the problem, a health-care provider may want to know if:

- other household members also have symptoms
- you or other household members feel better when you're away from your home.

A blood and/or breath test may be used to diagnose CO poisoning.



### HAVE YOUR HOME CHECKED

Contact your local utility or a qualified professional to inspect your home.

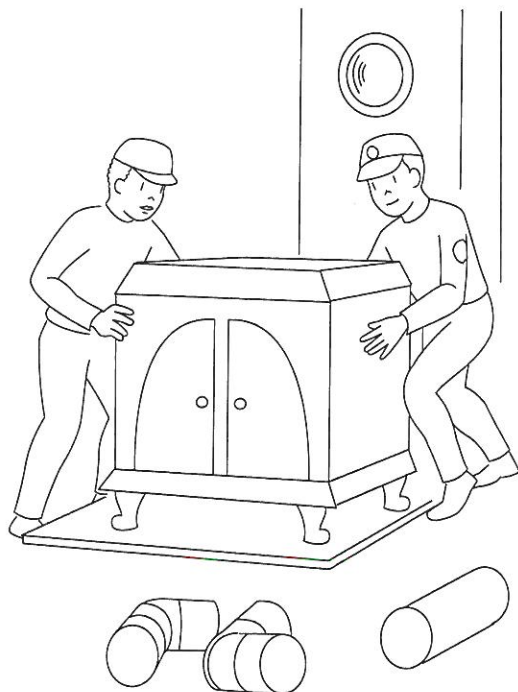
Don't go back in until any problems have been corrected.

# PREVENTION IS THE KEY

to keeping you and your loved ones safe from CO.

## HAVE FUEL-BURNING APPLIANCES INSTALLED

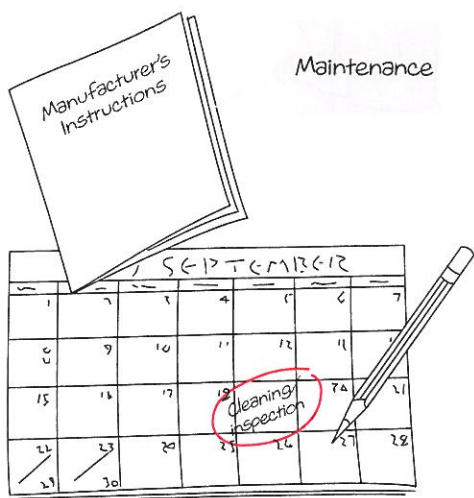
by qualified professionals. Be sure they check for backdrafting. Backdrafting means that exhaust does not vent properly to the outside. It may be pulled down the chimney instead.



## Maintenance

## MAINTAIN APPLIANCES

according to the manufacturer's instructions. Have qualified professionals inspect them yearly to ensure they are working safely. Don't attempt repairs yourself unless you have all the required training and tools.



## HAVE YOUR HEATING SYSTEM INSPECTED AND CLEANED

each year by a qualified professional.

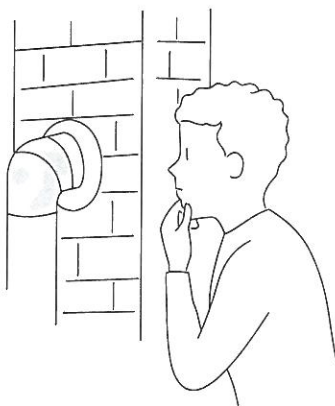


## CHECK CHIMNEYS,

flues and vent pipes often.  
Be alert for:

- loose or cracked masonry
- spots of rust, stains or water streaking
- loose or improper connections.

Call for an inspection and/or repairs if you notice any problems.

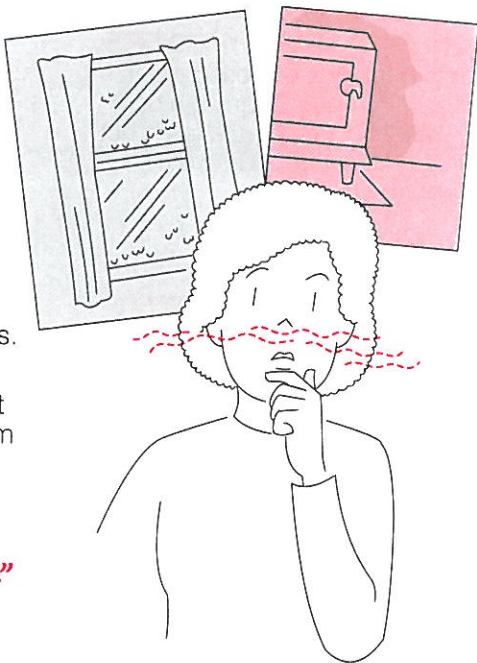


## WATCH FOR ANY SIGNS

of a CO problem in your home.  
These include:

- soot buildup near fuel-burning appliances
- a burning smell or other unusual odor
- an appliance that keeps shutting off
- a yellow-looking flame on a gas appliance
- excess moisture inside of windows.

It's also possible to have a CO problem with no obvious signs. Shut off any appliance that does not seem to be working properly. Contact a qualified professional to inspect it.



## LET YOUR HOME "BREATHE"

—air leaks help prevent CO from building up. Be sure to check with a qualified professional if you install new windows or make other improvements that seal up air leaks in your home.

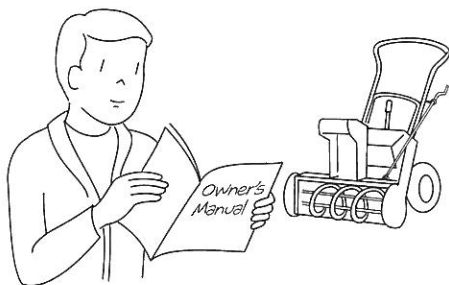
**Don't smoke in your home. Tobacco smoke produces CO—and can raise CO levels inside your home.**

# DON'T TAKE CHANCES

Use fuel-burning appliances and vehicles correctly to avoid trouble.

## FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS

for the proper use of each appliance. Keep the owner's manual handy in case you have questions. Never ignore safety warnings.



## NEVER USE A CHARCOAL OR GAS GRILL INDOORS,

or in a garage, enclosed porch, tent or camper. Opening a door or window or running a fan is not enough to prevent CO from building up.

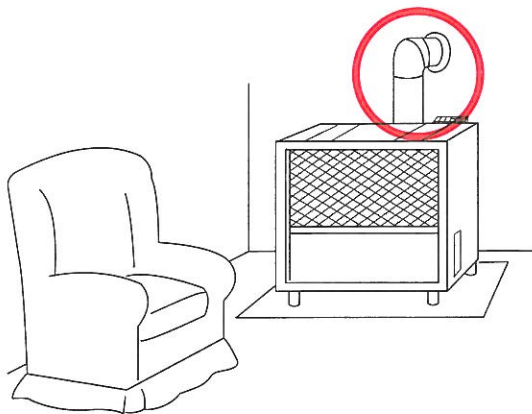


## VENT A FUEL-BURNING HEATER

to the outside. If you must use an unvented, fuel-burning heater in an emergency:

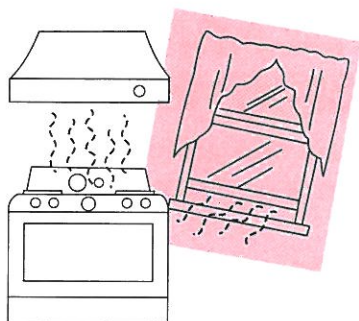
- Make sure it includes instructions for safe indoor use. Follow these carefully.
- Always use the right kind of fuel.
- Don't use the heater in a closed room. Open a window and doors for ventilation.
- Never sleep—or let anyone else sleep—in a room with the heater running.

Obey all local and state laws for using portable or space heaters.



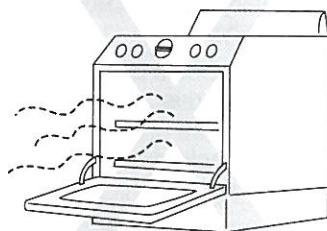
### **VENT A GAS RANGE**

to the outside. Crack a window and run the exhaust fan whenever you cook.



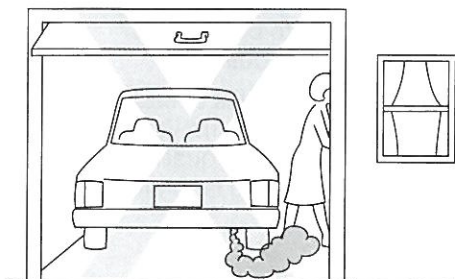
### **NEVER USE A GAS RANGE OR OVEN FOR HEATING**

a room—even for just a short time.



### **NEVER LEAVE A VEHICLE RUNNING IN A GARAGE**

—even if the garage door and/or windows are open. CO can build up quickly in the garage. If the garage is attached to your home, CO could get inside your home, too.



### **START YARD EQUIPMENT OUTDOORS**

—never in a garage, basement or other enclosed space. Maintain the equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions.



**Know what the risks are—and how you can avoid them!**

# CO ALARMS PROVIDE BACKUP PROTECTION

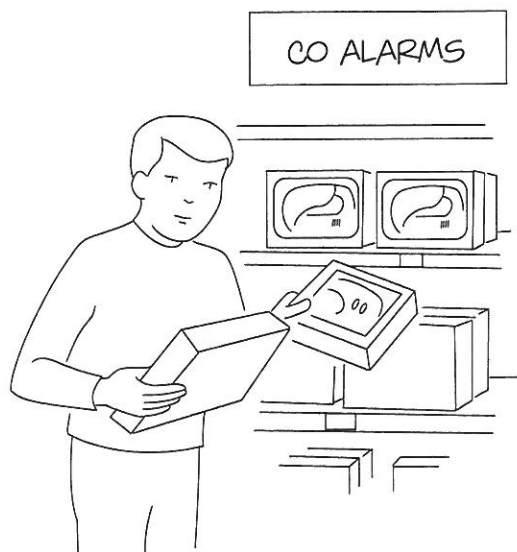
These are also called CO detectors. Install at least 1 in your home. Here are some suggestions:

## COMPARE DIFFERENT TYPES

of CO alarms. There are two main types:

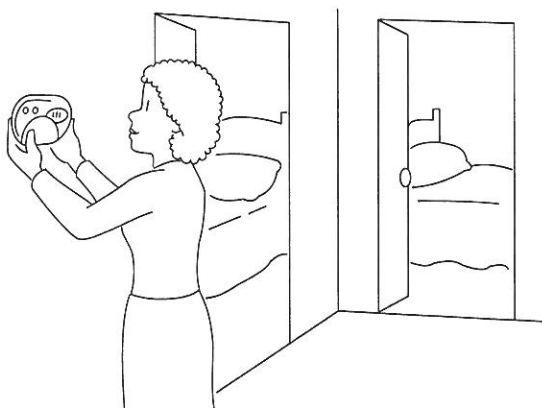
- Plug-in models plug into an electrical outlet. If you get this type, choose one with a battery backup in case the power goes out.
- Battery-powered models use a special battery pack. The pack must be replaced as recommended. These models do not have to be installed near electrical outlets.

Consider the benefits of each type. Be sure any alarm you choose is listed by a qualified, independent testing laboratory.



## INSTALL THE ALARM(S) NEAR SLEEPING AREAS

on each floor of your home. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper installation, testing and maintenance.



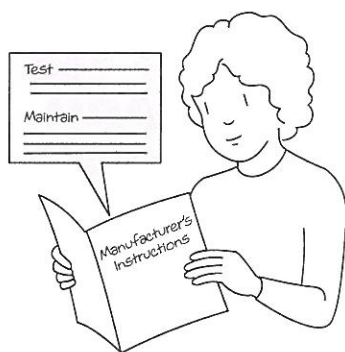


## **CONTACT YOUR FIRE OR RESCUE DEPARTMENT,**

and tell them you've purchased a CO alarm. Use the nonemergency phone number. Ask what number you should call if the alarm sounds.

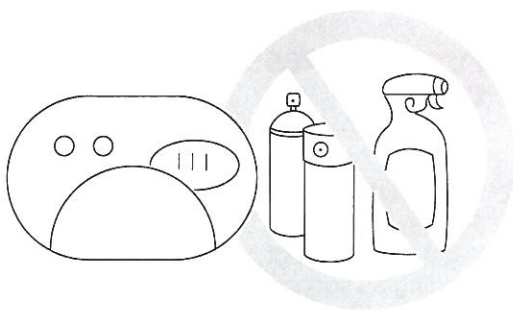
## **TEST AND MAINTAIN YOUR CO ALARM(S)**

according to the manufacturer's instructions. Replace batteries or battery packs as often as recommended. Mark your calendar so you'll remember.



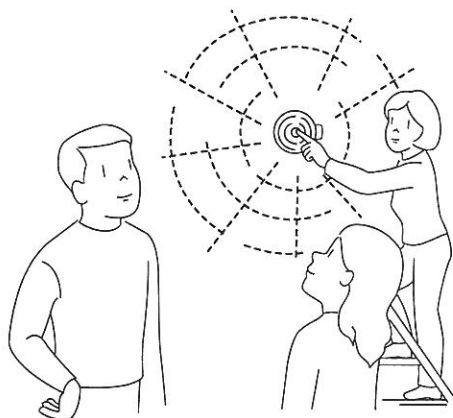
## **KEEP HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS AWAY**

from your alarm(s). (Long-term exposure to chemicals could damage an alarm.) Check the manufacturer's instructions for more information.



## **KNOW THE DIFFERENCE IN ALARM SOUNDS**

between the CO alarm(s) and your smoke alarm(s). (CO alarms do not take the place of smoke alarms. Properly install, test and maintain smoke alarms in your home.)

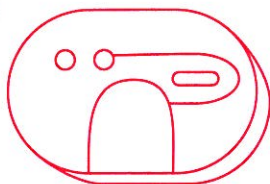


## **IN MANY PLACES, CO ALARMS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW**

But remember—CO alarms are never a replacement for the proper use and care of your appliances.

## WHAT IF THE CO ALARM GOES OFF?

You should assume it's an emergency.

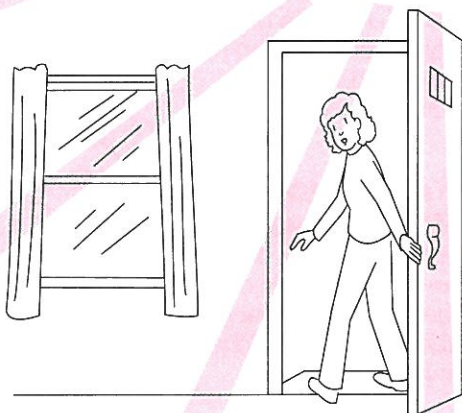


### 1. PUSH THE RESET BUTTON

on the alarm.

### 2. IMMEDIATELY SEEK FRESH AIR\*

—get everyone out of the building as soon as possible. (Do not wait to see if the alarm goes off again.)



### 3. CALL 9-1-1

or your local emergency number from the nearest phone outside your building. Follow the instructions the emergency operator gives you.

Never ignore  
the alarm!

### 4. DON'T GO BACK IN

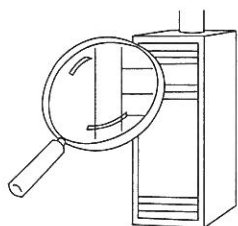
until any problems have been corrected.



\*If going outside means putting yourself or others in danger, first call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number. Then, stay by an open door or window until emergency services arrive and any problems have been corrected.

So-

## CO IS A DANGEROUS GAS



- ✓ **HAVE FUEL-BURNING APPLIANCES** installed and inspected yearly by qualified professionals.

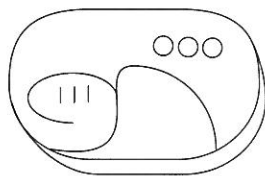
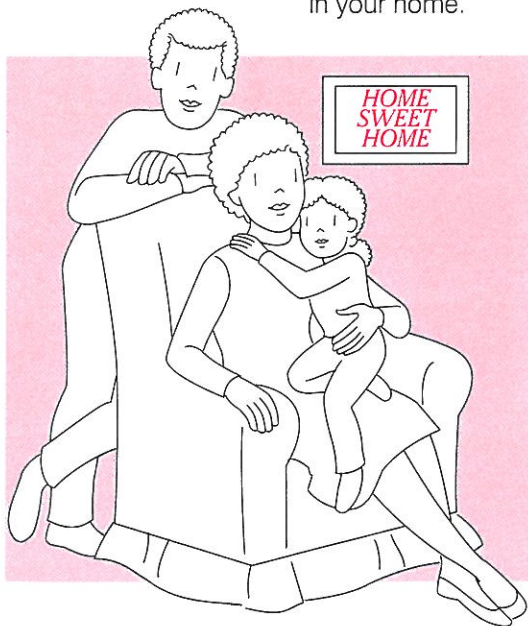


- ✓ **FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS** when using any fuel-burning appliance or vehicle.

- ✓ **KNOW THE SYMPTOMS** of CO poisoning—and what to do if you or a loved one has them.



- ✓ **INSTALL CO ALARMS** in your home.



**Keep your loved ones and yourself safe from carbon monoxide.**

