

Saved by the Carbon Monoxide Detector

The Lac du Flambeau Tribe of Wisconsin's Injury Prevention Program has been credited with saving the lives of an elderly couple who had purchased a carbon monoxide detector from the program. Each year in the United States, about 400 people die from carbon monoxide poisoning, while nearly 5,000 receive emergency room treatment.



Above: A local newspaper article relates this success story.

Left: Anita Dionne with the Nighthawk Carbon Monoxide Detector

A Success Story

The couple, preferring to remain anonymous, told their story to Anita Dionne, the Lac du Flambeau Tribe's Maternal and WIC Outreach worker. During December, they had new siding installed on their home. The contractor neglected to properly reconnect the furnace exhaust ducts, through which carbon monoxide leaked into their home. The carbon monoxide detector alarmed before the couple could notice any ill effects of the gas. Immediately, they opened all the windows and searched for the cause of the alarm. They found that the exhaust ducts on the outside of the house had not been properly reconnected. The man told Anita that if he didn't have the detector, he would not be alive to tell Anita this story.



The Lac du Flambeau's Injury Prevention Program sells carbon monoxide detectors and child car seats at reduced cost to community members. The Tribe was able to purchase the carbon monoxide detectors thanks to a grant funded by the Bemidji Area Indian Health Service's Injury Prevention Program.

For more information, contact the Lac du Flambeau Environmental Health Officer at 715-588-9815 or the Bemidji Area Indian Health Service at 218-759-3383.