



### Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Activities

#### The Public Health Problem

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death. CO is found in combustion fumes, such as those produced by cars and trucks, small gasoline engines, stoves, lanterns, burning charcoal and wood, and gas ranges and heating systems. CO from these sources can build up in enclosed or semi-enclosed spaces. People and animals in these spaces can be poisoned by breathing it.

#### CDC Activities

- Maintaining CDC's CO Web site (<http://www.cdc.gov/co/default.htm>), which provides basic information on CO poisoning prevention, Q&As, reports, and other resources
- Monitoring, evaluating, and presenting surveillance data
  - Conducting and publishing findings of a 2002 study of national vehicle emissions policies and practices and declining U.S. CO-related mortality
  - Working with national and state data sources to expand surveillance beyond mortality
- Strengthening state and local capacity to respond to CO-related issues
  - Responding to state requests for technical assistance
  - Working with state and local partners to shape and target outreach and education efforts
- Developing an agenda for research, partnership, and education related to CO poisoning prevention
  - Assessing methods to formally evaluate effectiveness of CO detectors
  - Engaging private industry and regulatory agencies to reduce CO exposure
  - Working with regulatory agencies, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to develop standards for boat engines and CO emissions
- Responding to public inquiries

#### For more information, please contact:

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