



Rogers Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures

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| Policy Title: | Carbon Monoxide Responses | | |
| Policy Number: | 607 | Volume: | Special Operations |
| Approved By: | Tom Jenkins | Last Updated: | June 2009 |
| CFAI Reference: | 5F.4 | CAAS Reference: | N/A |
| Revision Summary: | Created – June 2009 Formatted – May 2012 | | |

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a procedure for operations at Carbon Monoxide events. Generally, these guidelines describe actions to be taken at activations of Carbon Monoxide alarms or in the event victims present with Carbon Monoxide symptoms, in the absence of an alarm.

POLICY

Carbon monoxide poisoning is difficult to diagnose. Symptoms are similar to normal influenza, which may include headache, nausea, fatigue, and dizziness.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) established a maximum safe working level for Carbon Monoxide at 35 parts per million (PPM) over an eight hour period, in the general workplace. There is no established standard for Carbon Monoxide in residential structures, however OSHA established 35 PPM as the acceptable level for commercial buildings.

Upon arrival, the company officer should determine if anyone is exhibiting any symptoms of CO poisoning. Immediate evacuation of the property is necessary anytime the possibility of Carbon Monoxide or other dangerous gas is present in the building's atmosphere. The following actions should be taken at the direction of the incident commanders:

1. Occupants should be questioned about the type and location of any gas burning or CO producing appliances.
2. A multi-gas meter should be used to examine all levels of the structure and all rooms. IT is imperative to be thorough and systematic in the examination of the property.
3. If positive readings above 9ppm are found, the local gas company (typically Arkansas Western Gas) should be contacted and requested to respond.
4. Should ventilation be required, an electric confined space ventilation fan should be utilized.

5. If a reading of less than 9 PPM is found, the occupants should replace or reset the detector and be directed to call the fire department if a subsequent alarm or symptoms appear.

An SCBA will be utilized by any member entering a potentially unsafe atmosphere until atmospheric monitoring equipment confirms the absence of CO in all rooms and all floors.