Gas leak or emergency?

Use your senses to detect gas leaks

Smell

Natural gas is colorless and odorless. For your safety, a distinctive, pungent odor, similar to rotten eggs, is added so that you'll recognize it quickly.

Sight

You may see a white cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water, or blowing dust. You may also see vegetation that appears to be dead or dying for no apparent reason.

Sound

You may hear an unusual noise like roaring, hissing or whistling.

If you suspect a gas leak

Get up, get out and get away! Then call **911** or us immediately at **800.292.5012** from a safe location. We'll respond quickly to ensure you and your family are safe.

For more information
Visit **berkshiregas.com/GasLeaks**

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Carbon monoxide safety tips

Keeping your family safe



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Whether you heat your home with oil, natural gas, propane, coal or wood, your heating system can produce carbon monoxide (CO) if it is not working properly, or if it is inadequately vented. CO also is produced from internal combustion devices such as cars and small gasoline engines.

CO is odorless, colorless and tasteless, but very toxic. Signs indicating the presence of CO in the home include stuffy, stale or smelly air, very high humidity, or soot coming from a fireplace or heating system.

What are the symptoms of CO poisoning?

The symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to those of influenza. The highest incidence of CO poisoning occurs during flu season.

Symptoms include headache, dizziness, nausea, unclear thinking, shortness of breath, weakness, vision problems and loss of muscle control. High concentrations of CO can lead to unconsciousness, brain damage or death. However, a victim may not experience ANY of these symptoms, or only one or a few symptoms.

You should suspect the presence of carbon monoxide if symptoms tend to disappear when you leave your home.



carbon monoxide alarm

What should you do if you suspect the presence of CO in your home?

- **Get up , get out and get away!**
- **Call 911 for emergency assistance.**
- **If CO poisoning is detected, seek medical attention immediately.**

How can you reduce the risk of CO poisoning in your home?

- Tune up your heating system using a licensed heating contractor, preferably before the heating season begins.
- Check your chimney or vent pipes for blockage. If a blockage exists, contact a professional chimney sweep immediately.
- Make sure your home is adequately ventilated, particularly if you have insulated your home, had major renovations done or have enclosed your heating system.
- Clear snow and ice from around appliance and equipment vents.
- Install a CO alarm in your home. In Massachusetts, CO alarms are required in all residences that have either fossil fuel burning equipment or an attached enclosed garage.
- Never use a natural gas range or oven to heat your home.
- Never use a grill, hibachi, lantern or portable camping stove inside your home, tent or camper.