

Carbon monoxide is a toxic gas that can occur wherever a fossil fuel combustion action is occurring. The fuels are called hydrocarbon fuels in that they contain carbon molecules (chemical symbol C) and hydrogen molecules (chemical symbol H). Humans and other animals can breathe in air that contains harmful levels of this poison.

Hydrocarbon fuels (CH) require specific amounts of oxygen (chemical symbol O) and heat for the action of combustion to occur. $O_2 + CH_4 \text{ (fuel) + HEAT or IGNITION = COMBUSTION}$

This action includes heating, cooking and water heating with wood, oil, natural gas, propane (LPG) and similar hydrocarbon based fuels. It includes burning gasoline or diesel fuel to power our cars, trucks, boats, planes & trains. Incomplete combustion often occurs and carbon monoxide exposures can occur in homes and other buildings, transportation & recreational vehicles and even in some outdoor areas where the source is strong and the ventilation weak.



Poisoning from carbon monoxide can go undetected though a person might be experiencing symptoms everyday. One carbon molecule (C) bound with one oxygen (O) molecule references the chemical symbol for carbon monoxide as CO. It is measured in air in parts per million or PPM; out of a million molecules of air, how many PPM are CO molecules? It is measured by % in human blood. **CO aggressively displaces oxygen** in the hemoglobin of blood triggering oxidative stresses.

CO is produced when the action of fire is incomplete. There is not always an odor when CO is present, though you can smell lawn mower or auto exhaust and motor boat and other blended exhausts most of the time when they are running or idling. These contain CO though carbon monoxide itself is odorless. You may be exposed to CO almost everywhere!

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