

## **Carbon Monoxide Alarm Guidelines**

In accordance with the 2013 edition of the California Fire Code (CFC) all existing single family dwellings that contain a fossil fuel burning heater or appliance, fireplace, or an attached garage must install carbon monoxide alarms. All other existing dwellings including multi-family dwellings shall comply by January 1, 2013.

### ***What are the installation requirements for Carbon Monoxide Alarms?***

- Must be either battery powered or hard wired with battery backup.
- Must be installed outside of sleeping areas and on every level of a dwelling, including the basement.
- Should not be mounted near the floor.
- When wall mounting: Must be at least as high as the light switch and at least six (6") inches from the ceiling.
- When mounting on ceiling: Must be at least twelve (12") from the wall.

**Note:** Always read and follow the manufacturer instructions regarding the placement and spacing of your particular Carbon Monoxide alarm.

### ***What are the sources of Carbon Monoxide poisoning?***

- Gas or oil furnaces, furnace flame, burners and ignition systems. The cause may be dirt, blockages, cracks, gaps, holes, corrosion or debris in the venting systems, combustion chamber or heat exchanger. Also, a yellow, flat, lazy-looking flame in a natural gas furnace indicates fuel is not burning efficiently thus releasing higher than usual levels of carbon monoxide.
- Chimneys and venting systems. Blockages, cracks or holes in these systems may force dangerous gases back into your home.
- Improper venting of fan systems, gas water heaters, clothes dryers, space heaters or wood burning stoves.
- Blocked or bent chimneys or flues. Soot, debris or holes in the chimney may release carbon monoxide exhaust back into the home.
- Stove pilot lights if not operating properly.
- Fireplace pilot lights if not operating properly.
- Using a gas stove as a heater or using charcoal indoors. Never use a gas stove as a heater or charcoal indoors. Keep the oven door closed and use it only for cooking.
- A car left running in an attached garage. Never leave a car running in a garage even if the garage door is open.

### ***What should I do or whom should I call when my carbon monoxide detector goes into alarm?***

- Call 911
- Evacuate the building
- Make sure all persons in the household are accounted for and do not re-enter the premises until the problem has been corrected.