



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Diane Holm, PIO

332-9561

Diane_holm@doh.state.fl.us

Poison Prevention Steps Needed
Carbon Monoxide Poisonings Rise

Fort Myers, FL—Lee County Health Department reminds the public that everyone is susceptible carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning especially since cold weather has arrived. To avoid becoming one of the 400 people identified by the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) who die annually from exposure to this odorless, colorless gas follow these simple steps:

- Don't use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove, or other gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement, or garage or near a window.
- Don't run a car or truck inside a garage attached to your house, even if you leave the door open.
- Don't burn anything in a stove or fireplace that isn't vented.
- Don't heat your house with a gas oven.

Three individuals in Lee County have already been treated for CO poisoning since the cold weather began this season. Besides the prevention tips above, things you should do include:

- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year. This includes systems on mobile or motor homes and boats.
- Install a battery-operated CO detector in your home and check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall. If the detector sounds leave your home immediately and call 911.
- Seek prompt medical attention if you suspect CO poisoning and are feeling dizzy, light-headed, or nauseous.

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Judith A. Hartner, M.D., M.P.H. • Director
3920 Michigan Avenue • Fort Myers, FL • 33916
www.leechd.com

