



# Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas produced by the incomplete combustion of fuels. When people are exposed to CO gas, the CO molecules will displace the oxygen in their bodies and lead to poisoning.

## Health Impacts

Symptoms of CO poisoning are

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Weakness
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Chest pain
- Confusion

From 2018-2022 in South Carolina, unintentional CO poisoning led to:

- 607 Emergency Department Visits
- 116 Hospitalizations
- 158 Deaths



**If CO poisoning is suspected, move everyone to an area with fresh air and call 911 and the Palmetto Poison Center (1-800-222-1222).**

## Common Sources of CO Poisoning

When fuel combustion is incomplete, CO is created. Some sources that can produce CO

are:



Dryer



Fireplace



Water Heater



Furnace



Gas Stove



Fuel Generator



Charcoal Grill



Garage



Tobacco Smoke

## CO Poisoning Prevention

CO is invisible and odorless— but detectable! A CO detector reduces your household's risk for unintentional CO poisoning. Place one in an attached garage and on every floor of your home, including the basement. For more prevention tips, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/carbon-monoxide/about/index.html>



To learn more about unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning, you can visit: <https://dph.sc.gov/professionals/public-health-data/sc-environmental-public-health-tracking/tracking-unintentional>