



# SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Renton Regional Fire Authority

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

## January 2024

### SMOKE ALARMS YOUR NOSE AT NIGHT



Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

- **Install smoke alarms in every bedroom.** They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- It is **best to use interconnected smoke alarms.** When one sounds, they all sound.
- **Test all smoke alarms at least once a month.** Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- **A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on the wall.** Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet from the stove.
- **People who are hard of hearing or deaf can use special alarms.** These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- **Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.**

#### Did You Know...

- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire?
- Roughly 3 out of 5 deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms?

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*It's a new year and time for a fresh start when it comes to fire safety! Resolve to spending just a few minutes reviewing the included winter safety information to make sure you start your new year off safely!*

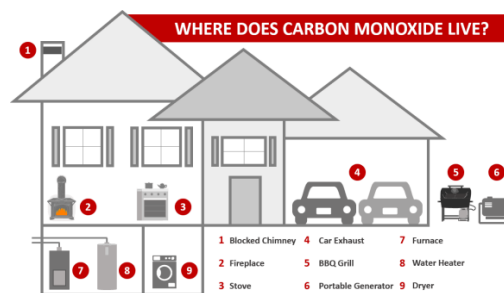
#### Understanding Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:

Carbon monoxide, or CO is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death. CO is produced by burning gasoline, wood, propane, charcoal, or other fuel. Improperly ventilated appliances and engines, particularly in a tightly sealed or enclosed space, may allow carbon monoxide to accumulate to dangerous levels.

#### Poisoning Signs:

The most common symptoms of CO are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. Poisoning occurs when carbon monoxide builds up in your bloodstream. When too much carbon monoxide is in the air, your body replaces the oxygen in your red blood cells with carbon monoxide. This can lead to serious tissue damage, or even death. Consider these prevention tips.

- **Install carbon monoxide detectors.** Put one in the hallway near each sleeping area in your house. Check the batteries every time you check your smoke detector batteries. If the alarm sounds, leave the house and call 911 or the fire department. Carbon monoxide detectors are also available for motor homes and boats.
- **Open the garage door before starting your car.** Never leave your car running in your garage. Be particularly cautious if you have an attached garage. Leaving your car running in a space attached to the rest of your house is never safe, even with the garage door open.
- **Make repairs before returning to the site of an incident.** If carbon monoxide poisoning has occurred in your home, it's critical to find and repair the source of the carbon monoxide before you stay there again.



#### Generator Safety:

**Portable generators are useful during winter storms, but if not used safely, they can cause injuries and death.**

- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.
- Make sure you have carbon monoxide alarms in your home.
- Do not use a generator in a wet area. This can cause shock or electrocution.
- Connect appliances to the generator with heavy-duty extension cords.
- Do not fuel your generator when it is running. Spilling gas on a hot engine can cause a fire.





### Incident Details:

- On December 1, 2023, Renton RFA responded to a residential fire in Station 13's area on the 16800 block of 113<sup>th</sup> Ln SE. Renton RFA responded with Renton Police. One resident of the affected townhome reported seeing flames from the backyard. The fire alarm sounded, and smoke was inside the home as the resident evacuated and confirmed no other residents were inside. Units arrived to a 2-story 4-plex residential building. Upon their walk through and search on the first floor, firefighters reported flames on the exterior screen of the sliding glass door of the back bedroom. There was a heavy odor of gasoline on the back exterior of the building. More fire was observed in the downspouts of the exterior drains. Crews extinguished the fire and checked for any fire extension into the residence; none was found. One unit began ventilation, and another remained on scene to assist the fire investigator and Renton Police. The fire was determined to be incendiary.
- On December 19, 2023, Renton RFA responded to a moving vehicle accident with injuries in Station 11's area along NE 3<sup>rd</sup> St westbound. Renton RFA responded with Renton Police, King County Medic One and TriMed Ambulance. Renton Police reported a car with 3 occupants traveling at a high rate of speed lost control and crashed head on into a school bus with 4 occupants on board, resulting in multiple injuries. Units arrived on scene to one patient trapped in the sedan. Crews began patient care and extrication. The trapped patient was found unresponsive, extricated from the vehicle, and given patient care then was later pronounced deceased. The driver of the sedan was treated and transported to a nearby hospital. The passenger in the back seat sustained serious injuries and was transported to the hospital. The driver of the school bus was treated and transported to a local hospital. One fire fighter reported blood exposure during the extrication and was transported to Harborview Medical Center for evaluation. Once all patients were transported, the scene was turned over to Renton Police.
- On December 20, 2023, Renton RFA responded to a shooting incident in Station 13's area in the 17000 block of 120<sup>th</sup> Ter SE. Renton RFA responded with Renton Police and King County Medic One. Units arrived on scene to a patient with a gunshot wound to upper chest. Patient care was provided then transferred to KC Medic One. One firefighter accompanied KC Medic One during transport to a nearby hospital.
- On December 23, 2023, Renton RFA responded to a moving vehicle accident with injuries in Station 11's area on the 2400 block of Maple Valley Hwy. Renton RFA responded with Renton Police and King County Medic One. Crews arrived on scene to one single occupant vehicle that crashed into a light pole with the front half of the car wrapped around the pole. The driver was found unresponsive and without a pulse. KC Medic One arrived on scene and the patient was pronounced deceased on arrival. Renton Police took over the scene and began their investigation. One RRFA unit later returned to extricate the patient.
- On December 31, 2023, Renton RFA responded to a building fire in Station 11's area on the 300 block of Taylor Ave NW. Renton RFA responded with Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority, King County Fire District #20, King County Medic One and Renton Police. Crews arrived at a three-story apartment complex with heavy fire visible from the roof of the building and the response was upgraded to a second alarm fire. Units received multiple reports of the fire source on the third floor that was spreading to the hallway and other apartment units. Fire crews began their fire attack, primary search and rescue mode. Units confirmed heavy fire in two units on the third floor. Fire fighters put out the fire, searched for hot spots and began ventilation of the building, ensuring all residents were evacuated. KC Medic One arrived on scene and set up the medical area and firefighter rehab. Two cats were found in one unit and were evaluated. Public Information Officers arrived to assist the residents who evacuated and address the media on scene. A metro bus was dispatched to provide shelter for the evacuated residents from the cold weather. Crews worked with the Red Cross and building management to determine how many residents needed to relocate. In all, seven units were affected; three due to fire damage and 4 for water damage. Fire crews conducted a primary and secondary search on all three floors then announced an all-clear. No injuries were reported. The fire investigator arrived to conduct their investigation in which was determined to be accidentally set on the stovetop.

For more information, please visit our website: <https://rentonrfa.com>