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Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week: November 1 to 7, 2016

Beat the silent killer; prevent carbon monoxide in your home

NEWMARKET, ON, October 31, 2016 – Ontario’s annual *Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week* will take place from **November 1 to 7, 2016** and Central York Fire Services (CYFS) reminds residents that it is mandatory to have a working carbon monoxide alarm installed in your residence to help protect against carbon monoxide poisoning.

“In Ontario, more than 80 per cent of injuries and deaths from carbon monoxide occur in the home,” said Central York Fire Services Fire Chief Ian Laing. “A working carbon monoxide alarm will alert people to dangerous carbon monoxide levels and allow them to escape their residence quickly and safely.”

Carbon monoxide is produced when fuels such as natural gas, propane, wood, oil and kerosene do not get enough air to burn completely. It is important to install carbon monoxide alarms near all sleeping areas of the home to ensure the alarm is heard if activated. Carbon monoxide and smoke alarms should be tested regularly to ensure they are in working order.

For more ways to protect you and your family against carbon monoxide, please follow the carbon monoxide safety tips below:

- Always make sure your fuel burning appliances have adequate air supply to prevent a carbon monoxide hazard.
- Carbon monoxide alarms should be installed near sleeping areas according to manufacturer’s instructions. If there are bedrooms on more than one floor in your home or cottage, then you need more than one carbon monoxide alarm.
- Make sure all fuel-burning appliances, systems and chimneys are properly vented and are serviced once a year by a qualified service technician or heating contractor.
- Ensure your appliance vent is not blocked by ice or snow.
- Never run a vehicle or other motors indoors even if the garage door is open.
- Never use portable fuel-burning camping equipment inside a home, garage, vehicle or tent unless it is specially designed for use in an enclosed area.
- Clean and inspect chimneys and flues once per year to ensure adequate ventilation is provided as animals and bird nests, snow, ice and other debris can block gases from escaping your chimney.
- Exposure to carbon monoxide can cause flu-like symptoms such as headaches, nausea and dizziness, as well as confusion, drowsiness, loss of consciousness and death. If someone in the household is experiencing symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, get everyone out of the home immediately. Call 9-1-1 from outside the home.
- Test you carbon monoxide alarm along with your smoke alarm monthly ensure that they are in working order. Make sure everyone in your home knows the difference between the two sounds.

For more information, visit www.cyfs.ca.

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