

**How can I heat my house safely or cook when the power is out?**

- Never use a gas range or oven for heating. Using a gas range or oven for heating can cause a buildup of CO.
- Never use charcoal grill or barbecue grill indoors. Using a grill indoors will cause a buildup of CO.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal – red, gray, black, or white – gives off CO.
- Never use a portable gas camp stove indoors.
- Never use a generator inside your home, basement, or garage or near a window, door, or vent.

**How can I avoid CO poisoning from my vehicle?**

- Have a mechanic check the exhaust system of your car every year. A small leak in your car's exhaust system can lead to a buildup of CO inside the car.
- Never run a car or truck in the garage with the garage door shut. CO can build up quickly while your car or truck is running in a closed garage.

**CO Links and Resources**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
<http://www.cdc.gov>

Washington State Department of Health  
[http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/iaq/co\\_fact\\_sheet.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/iaq/co_fact_sheet.htm)

Klickitat County Planning Dept.  
228 W Main St., MS-CH-17  
Goldendale, WA 98620  
509-773-5703 or 800-765-7239

Klickitat County Road Dept.  
228 W Main St., MS-CH-19  
Goldendale, WA 98620  
509-773-4616 or 800-583-8074

Klickitat County Health Dept.  
228 W Main St., MS-CH-14  
Goldendale, WA 98620  
509-773-4565 or 888-291-3521

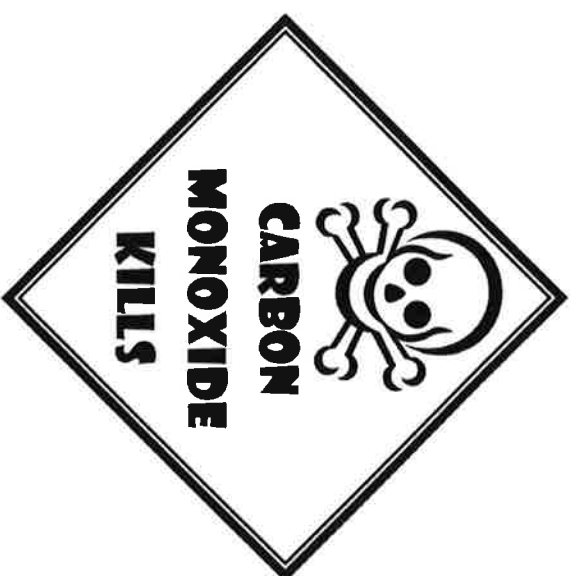
Electrical Inspector/Permits  
State of Washington  
Department of Labor & Industries  
312 SE Stonemill Dr., Ste. 120  
Vancouver, WA 98684

360-896-2300

Klickitat County PUD  
1313 S Columbus St.  
Goldendale, WA 98620  
509-773-5891 or 800-548-8357

If your property is located in the National Scenic Area, the Columbia River Gorge Commission requires you to comply with all National Scenic Area regulations. They can be contacted at 509-493-3323

**Carbon Monoxide Alarms**



Klickitat County Building Department

228 W Main St., MS-CH-20  
Goldendale, WA 98620  
509-773-3706 or 800-583-8078  
Fax: 509-773-2480

[www.klickitatcounty.org](http://www.klickitatcounty.org)

For new construction, an approved carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedroom in dwelling units and on each level of the dwelling and in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Existing dwellings shall be equipped with carbon monoxide alarms when alterations, repairs or additions requiring a permit occur, or when one or more sleeping rooms are added or created.

Single station carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed as complying with UL 2034 and shall be installed in accordance with this code and the manufacturer's installation instructions.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death.

### Where is CO found?

CO is found in combustion fumes, such as those produced by cars and trucks, small gasoline engines, stoves, lanterns, burning charcoal and wood, and gas ranges and heating systems. CO from these sources can build up in enclosed or semi-enclosed spaces. People and animals in these spaces can be poisoned by breathing it.

### What are the symptoms of CO poisoning?

The most common symptom of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting,

chest pain and confusion. High levels of CO inhalation can cause loss of consciousness and death. Unless suspected, CO poisoning can be difficult to diagnose because the symptoms mimic other illnesses. People who are sleeping or intoxicated die from CO poisoning before ever experiencing symptoms.

### How does CO poisoning work?

Red blood cells pick up CO quicker than they pick up oxygen. If there is a lot of CO in the air, the body may replace oxygen in blood with CO. This blocks oxygen from getting into the body, which can damage tissues and result in death.

### Who is at risk from CO poisoning?

All people and animals are at risk for CO poisoning. Certain groups – unborn babies, infants, and people with chronic heart disease, anemia, or respiratory problems – are more susceptible to its effects. Each year, more than 400 Americans die from unintentional CO poisoning, more than 20,000 visit the emergency room and more than 4,000 are hospitalized due to CO poisoning. Fatality is highest among Americans 65 and older.

### How can I prevent CO poisoning from my home appliances?

- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters (catalytic) indoors. Although these heaters don't have a flame, they burn gas

- and can cause CO to build up inside your home, cabin or camper.
- If you smell an odor from your gas refrigerator's cooling unit have an expert service it. An odor from the cooling unit of your gas refrigerator can mean you have a defect in the cooling unit. It could also be giving off CO.
- When purchasing gas equipment, buy only equipment carrying the seal of a national testing agency, such as the American Gas Association or Underwriters' Laboratories.
- 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.

### How do I vent my gas appliances properly?

- All gas appliances must be vented properly.
- Never burn anything in a stove or fireplace that isn't vented.
- Have your chimney checked or cleaned every year. Chimneys can be blocked by debris.
- Never patch a vent pipe with tape, gum, or something else.
- Horizontal vent pipes to fuel appliances should be perfectly level. Indoor vent pipes should go up slightly as they go towards the outdoors. This helps prevent CO or other gases from leaking if the joints or pipes aren't fitted tightly.