



Fire Department

William Wentlandt
Chief
Mark A. Sain
Assistant Chief

For Immediate Release
Date: *October 27, 2006*
News Release # 06-48

Contact: **Lieutenant Brian O ' Connor**
Public Information Officer
414-286-8968 (Office)
414-397-8591 (Cell)
brian.oconnor@milfire.com

MEDIA ADVISORY CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

According to the Center for Disease Control, approximately 480 people die every year by accidental carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and over 15,200 are taken to the hospital. This does not count the people who commit suicide using carbon monoxide. Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, tasteless gas that is produced by the burning of a fossil fuel. With winter almost here, and most homes being heated by natural gas, the danger of CO poisoning is present. There are a number of actions that can be taken to prevent possible poisonings.

- Ø *In the Home*
 - Use a UL rated carbon monoxide detector
 - Change the battery yearly on all CO and smoke detectors
 - If the alarm sounds, call 911 and get everyone out of the house
 - If a number of people suddenly become ILL call 911 and get out of the house
- Ø *Furnaces*
 - Have checked yearly by a qualified technician
 - Replace filter at least once a year
 - Keep chimneys clean
- Ø *Grills*
 - Do not use for heating home
 - Use extreme caution if used in garage
 - Place used coals in a metal outside container
- Ø *Stoves*
 - Do not use for heating home
 - Keep clean
 - Replace if damaged
- Ø *Gasoline-powered equipment*
 - Never use in the home
 - Never store gasoline or gasoline powered equipment inside the home
 - Do not use for permanent power supply
- Ø *Auto safety*
 - Keep your cars tuned up
 - Do not run your car for extended periods of time in the garage even with the door open

The Milwaukee Fire Department is committed to reducing fire loss and eliminating fire fatalities in our community.

###