



City of Glendale
FIRE DEPARTMENT
Office of Public Information
www.glendalefire.com



Mitigation – Prevention – Education

Press Release

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GLENDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT REMINDS CITIZENS NOT TO USE OVENS OR BARBEQUES TO STAY WARM THIS WINTER

The Glendale Fire Department is urging everyone not to use their ovens, ranges or outdoor barbecues to heat their homes because these appliances are not designed for such use and pose a severe and potentially fatal risk of carbon monoxide poisoning if used for space heating.

On January 1, 2011, a mother and granddaughter in Willowbrook, California perished from carbon monoxide poisoning. Reports indicate they were using an oven for heat. This tragic incident is a reminder that carbon monoxide poisoning can be fatal, but can be prevented through proper use, installation and maintenance of natural gas appliances.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is formed when carbon-based fuels, such as kerosene, gasoline, propane, natural gas, charcoal or wood, are burned with inadequate amounts of oxygen, creating a condition known as incomplete combustion. When incomplete combustion occurs, carbon monoxide is produced, and this can potentially lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.

The early stages of carbon monoxide poisoning produce unexplained flu-like symptoms, such as headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, shortness of breath and mental confusion. Since carbon monoxide displaces the oxygen in the blood, prolonged exposure to carbon monoxide can lead to death.

Signs that may indicate the presence of carbon monoxide:

- A yellow, large and unsteady burner flame in a gas appliance.
- An unusual pungent odor when the appliance is operating.
- Unexplained nausea, drowsiness and flu-like symptoms.

What to do if someone suspects carbon monoxide is present in their home:

- If safe to do so, immediately turn off the suspected gas appliance.
- Evacuate the premises and call 911.
- Seek medical attention if anyone in the home experiences possible carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms.
- Contact the Gas Company (www.socalgas.com/service) or a licensed, qualified professional immediately to have the appliance inspected.
- Do not use the suspected appliance until it has been inspected, serviced and determined to be safe by the Gas Company or a licensed, qualified professional.

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