

Hartsdale Fire District

Winter 2007 Newsletter

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!!

A Guide to Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

The Silent Killer

Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning can happen within a matter of minutes and is responsible for more deaths than any other single poison. This odorless, colorless poison can hurt you slowly in low levels, cause permanent neurological dysfunctions in moderate levels or kill you in higher levels. Protection against this deadly poison is as easy as installing a simple carbon monoxide detector in your home or office.



CO is produced whenever fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood or charcoal is burned. The amount of CO produced while using fuel-burning appliances is usually not harmful. It becomes hazardous when appliances are used improperly or are not functioning

adequately.

Carbon monoxide poisoning is a serious threat that people need to get informed about. By educating ourselves on the dangers of CO we can significantly reduce the health risk as well as save lives. Although everyone needs to be aware of the dangers, infants, the elderly, and those who suffer from anemia, respiratory or heart disease, are more susceptible than others.

Health Risks

Low levels of carbon monoxide poisoning can be confused with other illness symptoms and can often go undetected. Carbon monoxide poisoning can result in long term health problems if not treated promptly. Symptoms such as nausea, headaches and light-headedness should be checked by a physician especially when more than one person in the home is showing symptoms.



Precautionary Measures

At the beginning of every heating season, home owners should have their fuel burning appliances such as oil and gas furnaces, gas water heaters, gas ranges and ovens, gas dryers, fire places and wood stoves checked by a qualified technician. Appliances deteriorate with time and can be a health risk to those who live in the home.

Besides having your appliances inspected, those using fuel-burning appliances should have their homes equipped with carbon monoxide detectors to provide added peace of mind. A CO detector should be placed on every floor in the home to provide the best protection.



Some other very simple ways to ensure that you and your family will not suffer from carbon monoxide poisoning include:

- Have flues and [chimneys](#) checked for security and blockages.
- Install and maintain appliances according to the manufacturers' instructions.
- Never idle the car in the garage, even if the door of the garage is opened.
- Never use a gas oven to heat your home, even for a short time.
- Never use a charcoal grill indoors.
- Never use a gas or kerosene space heater inside your home.
- Do not use any gasoline-powered engines such as mowers, weed trimmers, snow blowers, chain saws, small engines or generators in enclosed spaces.
- Install a [carbon monoxide detector in your recreational vehicle, camper, or motor home](#).

**To report a fire or emergency call
911 or 949-2324**

For all other business call 949-2325

Babysitters Graduate

In October 2007, The Hartsdale Fire District graduated 19 new babysitters from its annual

Baby Sitters Course, bringing to 1,035 the total number of babysitters graduated over the past 35 years. This year's class scored very well on the final exam, with 14 of the students attaining a grade of 90% or above. As a public service, a list of the current babysitters is available to you and can be picked up by stopping at Fire Headquarters at 300 West Hartsdale Ave.



When you hire a babysitter who has been trained by the Hartsdale Fire District, you can be confident knowing

that they have completed 20 hours of specialized training in how to care for your child and deal with emergency situations. Special thanks to our outside staff instructors: Susan Stevenson of Creative Beginnings Nursery School, Joanne Nemeth R.N. from White Plains Hospital, Police Officer Peter Dandreaano from Greenburgh Police, Vinny Brown from Chef Central, and Dr. Ed Conway, Chairman of Pediatrics at Beth Israel Medical Center.

Coming and Going !

We would like to congratulate Firefighter Bruce Timmons on his recent retirement from the Hartsdale Fire Department. Bruce had given over 35 years of distinguished service to the fire district, joining the ranks in March of 1972 after serving our country in the Armed Forces. We wish him well in his retirement.



We would also like to welcome our newest addition to the career department. The District recently hired Jim Gagliardo. Jim comes to us as a transfer from the Mount Vernon Fire Department. Jim follows in the footsteps of his Uncle, Frank Gagliardo, who had a long career with the Hartsdale Fire Department.

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New Location for Elections!!!

The annual election of the Hartsdale Fire District will be held on **Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at Hartsdale Fire Station No. 2, 300 West Hartsdale Avenue. Please note**

the change of location this year. The polls will be open from **6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** The election will take place for the following purpose:

- To elect one (1) Fire Commissioner for a term of five (5) years
- To elect one (1) Fire Commissioner for a term of one (1) year.

To be qualified to vote at this election, the voter must be:

1. A citizen of the United States
2. A resident in the Hartsdale Fire District for a period of thirty (30) days next preceding an election.
3. A registered voter in the County under permanent personal registration, registered with the Board of Elections of the Hartsdale Fire District, certifying conditions (1) and (2) above.

If you have any questions please call Sharon Spagnoli, Secretary of the Fire District, at (914) 949-2325.

Is Your Home Fire Safe?

Not sure? Call the Hartsdale Fire Department and we will stop by and perform a home fire safety inspection. We will check for common hazards found in many homes, we will ensure that you have enough smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers, and we will verify that they are in the correct locations. We will also help you formulate a home escape plan for the whole family. Call today for an appointment!!!

A Season for Sharing in Fire Safety

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season injure 2,600 individuals and cause over \$930 million in damage. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), there are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday season. You can find these tips on the USFA web site at:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov>. Click on the "Citizens" section.

TEACH SOMEONE YOU LOVE FIRE PREVENTION