

FREWSBURG FIRE DISTRICT OPERATIONAL POLICY	Section 7	EMERGENCY OPERATIONS	
	SUBJECT	CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) INCIDENTS	
	Policy 7-13	PAGE 1 OF 3	DATE: 01-01-2023

I. SCOPE

This policy applies to all Frewsburg Fire District members responding to Carbon Monoxide incidents

II. PURPOSE

This policy establishes the proper procedure for Frewsburg Fire District's response to reports of carbon monoxide (CO) incidents.

III. GENERAL

1. Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, tasteless, colorless gas that is deadly. It is a by-product of a fuel burning process. Many appliances such as furnaces, kitchen stoves, hot water heaters, automobiles, etc. can produce carbon monoxide. When a faulty or unusual condition exists, carbon monoxide may be vented into areas where people are present.
2. Carbon monoxide poisoning may be difficult to diagnose, its symptoms are similar to the flu, which may include headache, nausea, fatigue and dizzy spells.
3. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has established a maximum safe working level of carbon monoxide at 35 parts per million (PPM) over an eight (8) hour period in the general workplace. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established that residential levels are not to exceed nine (9) Parts per Million (PPM) over an eight (8) hour average.
4. National Fuel will not respond to all carbon monoxide (CO) investigations. They will respond only if the initial call received by them indicates that someone is ill or if the fire department request that they respond to the scene.

IV. RESPONSE

1. The dispatcher shall in all reports of an alarm call, attempt to verify if the alarm that is sounding is a smoke detector or a carbon monoxide detector. If the alarm is from a smoke detector, a structure fire assignment shall be dispatched.
2. When a call is received and dispatched to the fire department, which indicates a carbon monoxide incident, dispatch will send A-341 and E-342.

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V. ARRIVAL AT SCENE

1. Upon arrival at the incident scene, the officer shall use the CO meter and perform an initial CO level survey.
 - a. The CO meter should be activated outside of the structure to allow for fresh air calibration.
2. The officer shall have departmental personnel enter with protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
3. Departmental personnel shall initiate a primary search or verify that all occupants are outside of the structure.
4. Evacuation and treatment of occupants are the first priority.
5. If occupants are showing signs of CO exposure, have EMS personnel treat them per protocols.

VI. INVESTIGATION SURVEY

1. The meter shall be used to survey the premises and verify the presence of carbon monoxide.
2. The officer shall perform this survey, even if the residential CO detector is in the low battery mode.
3. If a carbon monoxide detector is in the alarm mode, the following procedures will be performed:
 - A. If anyone is exhibiting any symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, immediately evacuate and ventilate the premises.
 - B. Perform EMS treatment and transport.
 - C. Investigate for cause.
 - D. Call for National Fuel.
4. If no one exhibits any symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning the following shall apply:
 - A. A reading of 9 PPM or less does not require the evacuation of the premises.
 - B. Recommend the occupant, check their CO detector per manufacturer recommendations.
 - C. Attempt to reset the detector.
 - D. Inform occupants that if detector activates again, call 911.
5. Any reading above 9 PPM but less than 100 PPM shall be considered above normal, and potentially dangerous to the occupants:

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- A. Recommend that all occupants leave the premises and begin ventilation.
 - B. Determine the source of the CO and shut down the appliance.
 - C. Once the premises have been reduced to a safe level of CO, the premises may be occupied at the discretion of the occupant.
 - D. Attempt to reset the detector
 - E. Inform occupants that if the detector activates again, call 911.
 - F. Inform the occupants of the action that has taken place and that National Fuel has been requested to respond.
6. Reading of 100 PPM or greater
- A. Order the occupants to leave the premises immediately.
 - B. Determine the source of the carbon monoxide and shut down the appliance.
 - C. Shut off the gas and call for National Fuel to respond to the scene.
 - D. Call for situation the Building Inspector and notify him of the situation.
 - E. Ventilate the structure and reduce CO to a safe level.
 - F. Once the carbon monoxide level is safe the structure may be occupied at the discretion of the occupant.
 - G. Notify the occupant that request for gas service re-connect will be approved after repairs have been completed by a licensed plumber or licensed mechanical contractor.
 - H. Inform the occupants of the action that has taken place and that National Fuel has been requested to respond.

VII. DOCUMENTATION

1. All Frewsburg Fire District incident reports shall be completed on carbon monoxide responses. In addition to the above reports, a "Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation Notice of Findings" shall be completed.
 - A. This notice shall be completed and given to the owner/occupant. All PPM readings shall be added to your field report for department documentation. A sample of the "Notice of Findings Report" is included in this procedure.

VIII. CHECKLIST FOR CARBON MONOXIDE RESPONSES

1. A checklist for carbon monoxide responses has been included in this procedure. This checklist is to be completed and included with the reports submitted for this incident.