



ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY FIRE PREVENTION WEEK FACT SHEET 2021



Smoke Alarms

- Almost three out of five home fire deaths were caused by fires in properties with no smoke alarms or smoke alarms that failed to operate (NFPA 2021).
- Your risk of dying in reported home structure fires is 55 percent lower in homes with working smoke alarms than in homes with no alarms or none that worked (NFPA 2021).
- It is estimated that if every home had working smoke alarms, U.S. residential fire deaths would drop by 36% (NIST 2021).
- In the last two decades, Orange County has had over 1,100 structure fires where the structure did not have smoke alarms or did not have functioning smoke alarms. Unfortunately, these fires resulted in several fatalities (OCFA 2021).
- Approximately 20% of homes with smoke alarms have non-operational smoke alarms (NIST 2021).
- In 2012-2016, dead batteries caused one-quarter (25%) of smoke alarm failures (NFPA 2021).

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide (NFPA 2017).
- Low-level CO poisoning can often be confused with flu symptoms, food poisoning, and other illnesses. Some symptoms include shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, lightheadedness, or headaches. When extremely high CO levels are present, confusion, incapacitation and loss of consciousness can occur within minutes (NFPA 2021).
- CO incidents are more common during the colder months. From 2006 to 2010 half of CO incidents reported to local fire departments across the U.S. occurred between the months of November and February, peaking in December (NFPA 2021).
- From 2003-2010, 94% of carbon monoxide poisoning cases occurred in residential properties (NFPA 2021).
- In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine calls per hour. (NFPA 2017).
- Data from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) National Center for Health Statistics shows that in 2017, 399 people died of unintentional non-fire carbon monoxide poisoning (NFPA 2021).
- A person can be poisoned by both a small amount of CO over a longer period of time, or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time (NFPA 2017).



For more information call (714) 573-6200 or visit ocfa.org