

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on Carbon Monoxide (CO) Devices

*As of July 1, 2011, the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act (Senate Bill – SB 183) will require all single-family homes with an attached garage or a fossil fuel source to install carbon monoxide alarms within the home by July 1, 2011. Owners of multi-family leased or rental dwellings, such as apartment buildings, have until January 1, 2013 to comply with the law.*

## What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that is produced from heaters, fireplaces, furnaces, and many types of appliances and cooking devices. It can also be produced by vehicles that are idling. It kills approximately 500 people in the US every year and is nicknamed the “silent killer”.

## What is the effective date for installing a CO device?

For a single-family dwelling, the effective date is **July 1, 2011**. For all other dwelling units, the effective date is **January 1, 2013**.

## What is the definition of a dwelling unit?

A dwelling unit is defined as a single-family dwelling, duplex, lodging house, dormitory, hotel, motel, condominium, time-share project, or dwelling unit in a multiple-unit dwelling unit building.

**Generally, it's where you sleep!**



## Where should CO devices be installed in homes?

They should be installed outside each sleeping areas of the home including the basement. The manufacturer's installation instructions should also be followed.

## Can I replace my existing smoke detector with a carbon monoxide device?

**No.** By law, both smoke alarms/detectors and carbon monoxide devices are required to be installed in all dwellings. However, a combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarm/detector will satisfy both requirements.



Typical CO detector



Typical SMOKE detector

## Are CO devices required to be approved by the State Fire Marshal?

**Yes.** SB-183 prohibits the marketing, distribution, or sale of devices unless it is approved and listed by the State Fire Marshal. Look for the CA State Fire Marshal Seal on the packaging or check the website at: [www.osfm.fire.ca.gov](http://www.osfm.fire.ca.gov)

## Where can I get more information?

[www.safeathome.com/home-safety](http://www.safeathome.com/home-safety)

[www.ul.com/global/eng/pages/offering/perspectives/consumer/stories/carbonmonoxide](http://www.ul.com/global/eng/pages/offering/perspectives/consumer/stories/carbonmonoxide)

[www.homesafe.com/coalert/detect.php](http://www.homesafe.com/coalert/detect.php)

