



# OSWEGO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



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## Press Release

For Immediate Release  
January 18, 2021

### Carbon Monoxide *The Silent Killer*

**(Oswego, IL)** This winter season, the Oswego Fire Protection District would like to remind residents of the importance of working carbon monoxide detectors to help prevent illness and fatalities. Carbon monoxide hazards spike in winter, with 36% of CO related deaths occurring in December, January, and February.

The department encourages residents to install carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in the hallways near each bedroom – and on every floor of the house. Illinois law requires every home to have at least one operational CO alarm within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping.

It is important to never leave a car running in the garage or heat your home with your gas range or oven – and remember that anything that burns fuel must be properly vented.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, poisonous gas, which is produced by any material that burns. CO molecules displace oxygen in the body and can lead to poisoning – especially when concentrations of the gas build up in enclosed spaces.

Known as a "silent killer," symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, weakness, dizziness, nausea or vomiting, shortness of breath, blurred vision, and loss of consciousness. While symptoms may be subtle or feel like the flu, CO poisoning is truly a medical emergency.

*The Oswego Fire Protection District was formed by voter referendum in March of 1936, covers over 60 square miles in the northeast portion of Kendall County and about 1.5 square miles of northwest unincorporated Will County.*

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