



CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS: HB 09-1091

www.leg.state.co.us/Clics/CLICS2009A/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/8CA7AA87F3BED22D8725753700718548?Open&file=1091_01.pdf

On March 24, 2009, Governor Bill Ritter signed a measure requiring most new homes, and all homes and apartment buildings offered for sale in the state to have devices designed to detect the colorless, odorless gas located near bedrooms.

Apartment owners/homeowners who complete major renovations will also be required to install detectors.

A similar bill was rejected last year as some felt it was being pushed by manufacturers. There were also concerns that homebuilders and apartment owners could be held responsible if the equipment failed. This year's bill would not hold them liable.

CO Poisoning Symptoms

At moderate levels, you or your family can get severe headaches, become dizzy, mentally confused, nauseated, or faint. You can even die if these levels persist for a long time.

Low levels can cause shortness of breath, mild nausea, and mild headaches, and may have longer term effects on your health. Since many of these symptoms are similar to those of the flu, food poisoning, or other illnesses, you may not think that CO poisoning could be the cause.

Play it Safe

If you experience symptoms that you think could be from CO poisoning:

- **Get fresh air immediately.** Open doors and windows, turn off combustion appliances and *leave the house*.
- **Go to an emergency room** and tell the physician you suspect CO poisoning. If CO poisoning has occurred, it can often be diagnosed by a blood test done soon after exposure.
- **Be able to answer these questions:** Do the symptoms occur only in the house? Do they disappear or

decrease when you leave home and reappear when you return? Is anyone else in your household complaining of similar symptoms? Did everyone's symptoms appear about the same time? Are you using any fuel-burning appliances in the home? Has anyone inspected your appliances lately? Are you certain they are working properly?

Serious "Don'ts"

- **Don't** idle the car in a garage, even if outside doors are open. Fumes build up very quickly in the garage and living area of your home.
- **Don't** use a gas oven to heat your home, even for a short time.
- **Don't ever** use a charcoal grill indoors, even in a fireplace.
- **Don't** sleep in any room with an unvented gas or kerosene space heater.

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POOL AND SPA SAFETY ACT

Read the full article at www.recreonics.com/fyi/cpsc_pool_safety_act_interpretation.pdf

In December 2007, President Bush signed law to increase pool and spa safety, with specific regard to safety drain covers and anti-entrapment systems.



Additionally, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has prepared a guidance document on the pool and spa safety act to help homeowners better

understand the act, it's enforcement and legal requirements.

If you have a spa or pool on your property, it's very important that you read and understand this law. Deadlines for compliance may have already passed: your pool or spa could actually be closed!

Please take the time to go to the website above and read all of the information. Hopefully this will help you enjoy your pool or spa without interruption

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CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

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- **Don't** use *any* gasoline-powered engines in enclosed spaces.
 - **Don't** ignore symptoms! You could lose consciousness or even die if you do nothing.
 - Don't let buying a CO detector lull you into a false sense of security. Preventing CO from becoming a problem in your home is better than relying on an alarm.
- Follow the checklist of *do's* and *don'ts* above. Carefully follow manufacturers' instructions for its placement, use, and maintenance.
- If the CO detector alarm goes off:
 - Make sure it's your CO detector and not your smoke detector.
 - Check to see if any member of the household is experiencing symptoms of poisoning.
 - If they are, get them out of the house immediately and seek medical attention. Tell the doctor that you suspect CO poisoning.
 - If no one is feeling symptoms, ventilate the home with fresh air, turn off all potential sources of CO: your oil or gas furnace,

gas water heater, gas range and oven, gas dryer, gas or kerosene heater and any vehicle or small engine.

- Have a qualified technician inspect your fuel-burning appliances and chimneys to make sure they are operating correctly and that there is nothing blocking the fumes from being vented out of the house.

Prevention is the key to avoiding carbon monoxide poisoning!



A SIMPLE STEP TO HELP SAVE YOUR LIFE

File of Life (previously called Lifeline) is a national program assisting policemen and firemen in helping you. Take a few minutes to print and fill out the simple form for each household member (see page 4).

Firemen and policemen need certain information when responding to a medical emergency. Having this information available allows them to obtain the information, even if you aren't coherent, which will help care for you in your home, during transport, or when you arrive at the hospital.

After completing the form, place it inside your refrigerator door where you know it will always be handy. Be sure to write "none" if an item or section doesn't apply, and to make a note of any past medical history that is important information.

Do verify with your local City or County Fire and Police Departments that they recognize this program and will ask/look for this form when responding to an emergency in your home.

Your social security number on this form is **optional**. However, all hospitals ask for this when you are admitted to the emergency room or the hospital.

HINT: Take a copy with you when you travel. If you need to go to the emergency room you'll have all that information at your fingertips!

HB 08-1270: ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE RESTRICTIONS REMOVED

See www.colorado.gov/energy/policy/hoa-bill-hb-08-1270.asp for the full bill.

What Homeowners Can and Cannot Do

This bill, which became law in 2008, gives clear information on what homeowners can and can't do when it comes to the installation and use of renewable energy devices.

If you're considering using or installing renewable energy generation devices, please

take the time to go to this link and read the Act as it was signed into law. You'll find information on restrictions that HOA's can and cannot place on such devices, what's defined as an "energy-efficient measure", and especially information as it relates to wind-electric generators.

IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDERS

The following are important safety reminders:

- Have your dryer vent checked to ensure it is not clogged with lint. Doing this will not only reduce the likelihood of a fire, but will make your dryer work more efficiently.
- Change smoke alarm batteries at least annually. Schedule this on a date that you will be most likely to remember.
- Keep house doors, vehicle doors and windows locked when not in use or you are not at home.
- Keep garage doors closed at all times when no one is

in the garage.

- Do not leave vehicles running with keys in them (unlocked).
- Clean snow from sidewalks, around fire hydrants and mailboxes.
- Have fireplaces checked by a qualified company to do this type of work.



URBAN COYOTES

Published by the Colorado Department of Wildlife

Coyotes in the Front Range

While coyotes are found throughout the West, they are extremely adaptable and can thrive in urban areas. From downtown Denver to the smallest suburb, coyotes are not new to residential communities. They can and will be found in any neighborhood that provides their basic needs — food, water, shelter and space.

Why are they here?

Residential areas provide habitat for coyotes. Plentiful food sources exist, such as mice, rabbits and voles. These small animals feed on birdseed, berries and garbage, which are commonly found and easily accessible. Shelter and water can be found in landscaped parks and yards. Space is plentiful throughout parks, trails, and natural areas. As coyotes adapted to the presence of humans, they have lost their natural fear of us.

What attracts coyotes to your neighborhood?

Coyotes are attracted to neighborhoods due to the availability of garbage, pet food and even pets, which coyotes see as prey. The following list illustrates some of the attractants that draw coyotes close to people. Remove these attractants to discourage coyotes from visiting your property:

- Outdoor pet food or water, birdseed or other food sources
- Accessible garbage or compost
- Fallen fruit or berries from trees or shrubs
- Shrubs, woodpiles, decks or any other structure that can provide cover or be used as a den

Protecting Your Pets

It can be difficult to accept, but pets can be seen as a food source to coyotes and large dogs can be seen as a threat or possible mate. Coyotes have taken pets from backyards, open spaces and even right off the leash. Keep your pet current on vaccinations. Reduce the risk to your pet by following these guidelines:

- **Cat Owners:** The only way to guarantee your cat's safety is to keep it indoors. Outdoor cats also face potential death from cars, diseases, foxes, parasites, raccoons, dogs and birds of prey such as owls.
- **Dog Owners:** Always supervise your pet outside, especially at dawn and dusk. Keep your dog on a short leash while recreating — avoid retractable leashes. Do not allow your dog to play or interact with a coyote. If possible, pick up your dog when coyotes are visible. Avoid known or potential den sites and thick vegetation. Like domestic dogs, coyotes will defend their territory and their young. If you must leave your dog outside, secure it in a fully enclosed kennel.

When are coyotes a risk to you?

Although naturally curious, coyotes are usually timid animals and normally run away if confronted. Coyote attacks on humans are rare.

In many cases these attacks occur as a result of people feeding coyotes. Coyotes have adequate food supplies and are capable of surviving in the city without our help. A coyote that associates humans with food may become demanding and aggressive. A coyote that bites a person must be destroyed. By feeding coyotes you put yourself, the neighborhood and coyotes at risk. It is unlawful to feed or intentionally attract coyotes in most urban areas.

Be Prepared

If you have concerns about encountering a coyote, you may want to keep a deterrent handy. Deterrents can include rocks, pots and pans, vinegar in a water gun, paintballs, air horns or a repellent spray. Contact local authorities to ensure that you are using a legal method.

Do what you can to discourage a coyote's approach.

- Be as big and loud as possible
- Wave your arms, clap and throw objects at the coyote

- Shout in a loud and authoritative voice
- Do not run or turn your back on the coyote
- Face the coyote and back away slowly

Teach your children.

- Never approach wild animals or dogs you don't know!
- If a coyote approaches you, wave your arms, stomp your feet and tell it loudly "go away"!!!
- Call for help
- If the animal doesn't leave, walk out of the area, keeping the animal in your sight

What do coyotes look like?

Coyotes are brownish-gray with a light gray to reddish, cream-colored belly, slender muzzle, bushy tail. Coyotes typically weigh between 20-50 pounds, and often appear heavier due to a thick, double coat of fur.



What do coyotes eat?

Coyotes are opportunistic mammals. Up to 70 percent of a coyotes diet consists of small mammals (mice, rabbits, rats, squirrels, voles, etc.). The remaining 30 percent is a combination of fruits, vegetables, insects, fish, birds, eggs and other available items. In urban areas, coyotes also prey on rats, squirrels, garbage, fallen fruit/berries from trees and small pets.

When are coyotes most active?

Coyotes can be active any time, day or night, but are especially active at dawn and dusk. Conflicts with pets occur year-round and are more likely to occur during the breeding season (February and March). Because young are born in the spring, food requirements of the nursing females and growing young remain high until late summer. As people and their pets spend more time outdoors during this time, the possibility of a coyote encounter increases.

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URBAN COYOTES (continued from page 3)

Can we make them leave?

Coyotes have adapted to neighborhoods because our environment supports them. Populations may fluctuate, but coyotes probably won't leave. Eradication programs in North American cities have proven to be expensive failures. These animals have adapted to our presence and have lost their natural fear of us. That doesn't mean that you can't do anything - you can. It is imperative that communities work together to instill the healthy and natural fear of humans back into the coyotes - for their health and safety and ours. Coyotes are quick learners, and consistent negative experiences can teach them to avoid people.

What you can do?

You have options when it comes to dealing with coyotes in your neighborhood:

- **Do nothing.** If you have no concerns about coyotes, you can go about your business. However, we recommend

you understand the possible risks to your pets and yourself.

- **Take steps to prevent conflict.** Follow the advice in this article to eliminate attractants around your property and safeguard your pet when walking in open spaces or areas where coyotes may be present.
- **Haze coyotes when you see them.** Every citizen can help both people and coyotes by taking action to re-instill them with a healthy and natural fear of people. Clap your hands, yell, honk an air horn or throw small rocks or sticks when you see coyotes so they can re-learn to avoid humans.
- **Evaluate lethal control for coyotes.** State law (Colorado Revised Statue 33-6-107(9)) allows you to manage coyotes that are causing damage to your property. This management may only be performed on your property. Be aware that cities and counties may

have more restrictive ordinances and laws. Contact your city and county officials to find out what options are permitted.

For more information ...

To report the feeding of coyotes or aggressive behavior toward humans, contact the Colorado Div. of Wildlife, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, at (303) 291-7227. After hours, call Colorado State Patrol at (303) 239-4501. Information is also available on their website at www.wildlife.state.co.us.



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FILE OF LIFE

FILE OF LIFE is a public safety program designed to assist in helping you during emergency medical aid. Fold this form and place it in a plastic "Ziploc" bag. Please mark the bag FILE OF LIFE. Place FILE OF LIFE on the upper right hand shelf of your refrigerator door. Please write your medications in pencil so they can be changed if needed.

NAME _____ AGE _____

BIRTHDATE _____ SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (OPTIONAL) _____

PHYSICIAN'S NAME AND PHONE NUMBER _____

PERSONS TO NOTIFY _____

PAST MEDICAL HISTORY *When filing out this section, please include important information such as: HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, DIABETES, PAST SURGERIES, HEART PROBLEMS, LUNG DISEASE, EPILEPSY, EYE PROBLEMS. If none, enter "none."*

ALLERGIES _____

MEDICATIONS _____