
Ames Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines

Book: 3 – Emergency Operations

Section: IX – Hazardous Materials Incidents

Chapter: 1 – **Carbon Monoxide Responses**

Date Approved: 10-12-2007 Revision No.:2 Approved by: 

PURPOSE:

To serve as a model for responding to carbon monoxide (CO) detector activation and related CO incidents in occupancies.

POLICY:

The intent of this policy is to aid Ames Fire Department (AFD) personnel with:

- Rescue/removal of individuals from hazards
- Evacuation assistance
- Rendering medical care (if required)
- Advising occupants of findings
- Issuing a Notice of Findings Form

PROCEDURES:

Carbon monoxide is an extremely hazardous product. AFD personnel are responsible only for investigating reported carbon monoxide problems or detector activations, evacuation, rendering first aid, and advising occupants. Emergency responders are not on scene to correct the cause of the problem.

CO Incident Response

- Engine/Truck company response will be made to any reported CO incidents with the potential for multiple victims or where the severity of symptoms is unknown.
- CO checks with no detector activation where CO symptoms are reported, the appropriate rescue unit should be immediately dispatched with the air monitoring equipment with CO detection.
- CO checks and rechecks with no symptoms, the appropriate rescue unit should be dispatched at the earliest mutually convenient time with the air monitoring equipment with CO detection.
- CO checks are conducted only when there is a reason to suspect the presence of carbon monoxide. Commercial resources are available for carbon monoxide tests where no reason to suspect a hazard exists.

Conducting CO Investigations

- Upon arrival any unit encountering confirmed or potential CO victims should activate EMS as deemed appropriate.
- For CO readings found in the following ranges:
 - >9 to <50 ppm at any time during CO monitoring - limit exposure time in the occupancy to less than one hour.

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- >50 to <100 ppm at any time during CO monitoring - limit exposure time in the occupancy to less than thirty minutes.
- Members with CO exposure to environments >50 ppm shall not be dispatched to any further CO checks within 48 hours of the exposure.
- AFD members shall utilize SCBAs in atmospheres that are in excess of 100 ppm. Backup personnel with SCBA shall be present when entry is made to atmospheres in excess of 100 ppm.

Additional Documents

- Internal use
 - Operator's instructions will be specific to the type of CO detector used and kept at each station.
- External Releases
 - A Carbon Monoxide Notice of Finding, Ames Fire Department form will be used at each CO incident. One copy will be left with the person who signed the form, the other returned to station and submitted with the incident report.
 - An Ames Fire Department Carbon Monoxide (CO) Checklist may be used when:
 - CO is present and a single source cannot readily be identified
 - Multiple sources are present
 - Whenever the incident commander deems necessary
 - The Ames Fire Department Carbon Monoxide Information Sheet may be given to anyone requesting information concerning carbon monoxide hazards.