



# PRESS RELEASE

## Darien-Woodridge Fire District

7550 Lyman Ave  
Darien, IL 60561



### Contact Information:

Chief Wayne Messenger 630-910-2200  
Fire Prevention Director Robert Morris 630-910-2207

Date: November 10, 2008

### *For Immediate Release*

---

## Fire District Warns of Dangers of Carbon Monoxide

At approximately 10:40 PM, on November 6, 2008, a fire engine responded to a home on Dunmore Dr. for a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm called in by an alarm company. When the resident finally answered the door, firefighters could hear an alarm sounding in the lower level.

They took their monitoring devices into the home, and they immediately went into alarm showing 300 parts per million (PPM). The allowable workplace level, determined by OSHA, is 35 PPM. During their investigation, they found a car running in the closed garage. In questioning the resident it was determined that the car had been running for about 4 hours. Firefighters stayed on the scene for an hour to ventilate the CO from the home.

It is believed that the occupant did not hear the alarm because the detector was in the basement, and the bedroom was on the upper floor of this larger home.

Illinois State law requires that every residence must have a working carbon monoxide alarm. It must have battery power, and be located outside any sleeping areas. A single detector located in the basement may not be loud enough to wake people up if there is a problem. For maximum protection a unit should be on each level of the home.

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that is a by-product of incomplete burning of materials such as wood, coal, or natural gas. Typically, clogged chimneys or improper venting issues are the main causes. However, clothes dryers, charcoal grills, stoves, and space heaters can also emit CO. Furnaces should be checked yearly to make certain that all parts are working correctly, and the gasses are not venting inside your home.

Symptoms of CO poisoning are flu like, and may include headaches that seem to go away after being outside for a short time, fatigue, nausea, dizzy spells, confusion, and multiple family members suffering from the same symptoms. More severe symptoms include vomiting, heart palpitations, sleepiness, and unconsciousness. If these conditions exist, call 9-1-1 for assistance.

For further information, or if you have any questions, contact your local fire department.

#####