

# New Durham Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)

SOG 253      Response to Carbon Monoxide Alarms

**PURPOSE:**    To insure the safe and effective response to reports of carbon monoxide (CO) incidents.

**SCOPE:**        Any response involving a report of carbon monoxide.

**SPECIFICS:**

**METERS:**

- The New Durham Fire Department will supply carbon monoxide meters.
- Carbon monoxide meter or meters will be kept on all response apparatus.
- The meters shall be used to monitor the atmosphere during any suspected carbon monoxide investigation.
- The New Durham Fire Department will also provide the testing and periodic re-calibration and maintenance of all CO gas meters as per the manufacturer's recommendations.

**SCENE:**

The first arriving officer shall establish scene control as per incident command procedure.

- Full turnout gear shall be worn and gas meter(s) actively monitoring the working environment until determined otherwise by Incident Command.
- Verify that the alarm is coming from a carbon monoxide detector or a smoke detector. Determine the cause of the alarm, i.e. true alarm, low battery indication, poor location of the device.
- If a level of over 9-ppm is detected, the building will be evacuated.
- Determine if anyone is exhibiting any symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning. If so immediately evacuate the premises. Then begin to investigate the cause. All occupants exhibiting signs of CO poisoning shall have their SpCO level checked to determine if they are truly suffering from CO poisoning or possibly some other affliction.

DATE: 2013-03-17

CARBON MONOXIDE INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES:

- Zero the meter in fresh air and comply with all other start up procedures as recommended by the manufacturer of the metering equipment.
- Initiate a survey of the premises to determine if there are any amounts above 9 ppm of carbon monoxide present.
- **All Department members shall use SCBA in any atmosphere that is in excess of 35 ppm of carbon monoxide.**

READINGS OF 9 PPM OR LESS:

- Inform the occupants that our test instrument did not detect an elevated level of carbon monoxide at this time.
- Recommend occupants check their CO detector per manufacturer recommendations.
- Attempt to reset the detector.
- Inform the occupants to call again if the detector reactivates.

READINGS OF MORE THAN 9 PPM BUT LESS THAN 100 PPM:

- Any readings above 9 ppm shall be considered above normal reading.
- Occupants shall be informed that we have detected a potentially dangerous level of CO.
- All persons should leave the premises.
- If it is determined that an appliance is malfunctioning and thereby producing CO, it shall be shut down and the building ventilated.
- Once the premises have been reduced to a safe level of CO, the premises may be reoccupied at the discretion of the occupant.
- Attempt shall be made to reset the detector
- Inform the occupants to call again if the detector reactivates.

READINGS OF 100 PPM OR GREATER:

- Any reading of 100 ppm or greater inform the occupants that we have detected a very lethal level of CO.
- Order the occupants to leave the premises immediately.
- If determined that an appliance is malfunctioning and thereby producing CO, it shall be shut down and the building ventilated.
- Once the premises have been reduced to a safe level of CO, the premises may be occupied at the discretion of the occupant.
- Attempt shall be made to reset the detector.
- Inform the occupants to call again if the detector reactivates.