



JACK MILLER
DIRECTOR

County of San Diego

ELIZABETH POZZEBON
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FOOD AND HOUSING DIVISION

P.O. BOX 129261, SAN DIEGO, CA 92112-9261
Phone: (858) 505-6900 FAX: (858) 505-6998
1 (800) 253-9933
www.sdcdeh.org

ADVISORY NOTICE CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

July 2012

This advisory notice is to inform public housing owners and management that on January 1, 2013, the California Health & Safety Code will require multi-family dwelling to have carbon monoxide detectors. In San Diego County, the Department of Environmental Health, Food and Housing Division (FHD) is the lead enforcement agency for the implementation and enforcement of this law as it pertains to public housing in cities that we regulate.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless and toxic gas. Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, CO can kill you before you are aware it is in the home. This notification letter also includes an information brochure available for tenants.

The Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010 requires that all residential properties, not just those being sold, be equipped with a Carbon Monoxide detector when the property has a fossil fuel burning heater or appliance, fireplace, and/or an attached garage. All single-family homes in structures with 1-4 units (owner or tenant occupied) were to be equipped with a detector on or before July 1, 2011.

On or before January 1, 2013, all other multi-family units (multi-family rentals, dormitories, hotels, motels, etc) must be equipped with a Carbon Monoxide detector as well as the smoke detector already required.

Rentals are required to have operable Carbon Monoxide detector at the time the unit is available for occupancy or when the tenant takes possession. A tenant is responsible for notifying the owner or owner's agent if the tenant becomes aware of an inoperable or deficient carbon monoxide detector within his or her unit. The owner or owner's agent must correct any reported deficiencies in the carbon monoxide detector and will not be in violation for a deficient or inoperable carbon monoxide detector when he or she has not received notice of the deficiency or inoperability.

The law applies to:

- Any gas appliances such as a gas stove, gas furnace, gas fireplace, gas water heater, etc.
- A fireplace (even if it only burns wood, pellets, or any other material).
- An attached garage (even if there are no gas appliances in the house). Cars continue to emit CO even after they are shut off.

Environmental Health Specialists conducting inspections will be required to report on the presence or absence of a working Carbon Monoxide detector just like they report on Smoke Detectors. The local fire district will be referred to for enforcement action.

For more information, please call (858) 505-6900 for the FHD Duty Information Specialist or visit our website at <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/>