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Standard Operating Guidelines

SOG NO.: KP-2-0022
SOG TITLE: CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS
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Purpose: To establish procedures and guidelines for operations at Carbon Monoxide Alarm activations

Procedure:

1. Upon arrival, the first officer/unit shall attempt to determine if the alarm activation is valid through the following methods:
 - a. discussion with occupants
 - b. entry into the structure only after donning **full protective clothing including SCBA** and monitoring interior atmosphere with appropriate monitoring devices (AIM CO Detector) SEE SECTION 7 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.
2. EMS should be notified immediately if occupants show any signs/symptoms of Carbon Monoxide exposure:
 - a. disorientation
 - b. dizziness
 - c. nausea
 - d. vomiting

- e. facial discoloration (redness)
 - f. difficulty breathing
 - g. any exposure to Carbon Monoxide
3. If it suspected that the activation is valid the following sources of Carbon Monoxide should be investigated:
- a. furnace and chimney flue
 - b. appliances that use flammable fossil fuels
 - 1. natural gas
 - 2. propane
 - 3. oil
 - 4. kerosene
 - c. faulty space heaters
 - d. fireplaces
 - e. indoor operation of grills/cooking appliances
 - f. seepage from other sources
 - 1. garage
 - 2. storage closets/sheds
 - 3. adjacent structures
 - g. backdrafting due to changes in air pressure
4. If the problem involves a utility, the proper agency (PECO, etc) should be contacted immediately.
5. The fire company will not attempt any repairs or alterations to any appliance or other device. The fire company will advise the occupant only.
6. Fire Company actions shall be limited to:
- a. evacuation and securing the structure involved
 - b. ventilation of structure
 - c. monitoring conditions within structure and environs
 - d. assisting Public Utilities where requested
 - E. CO checklist shall accompany all investigations

7. Using the AIM CO Detector
 - a. after activating the detector, zero the device in fresh air (reading between 0 ppm and 1 ppm)
 - b. beginning at the lowest level, preferably near the heating system, begin a survey of the structure, moving from the lowest floor to the highest. Concentrate on air ducts and returns.
 - c. **IF ANY READING OF 35 PPM OR GREATER IS RECORDED, DON AIR MASKS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE CONTINUING THE SURVEY.**

FOR READINGS OF 9 PPM OR LESS:

1. inform occupants that our detection equipment did not detect an elevated level of CO at this time. **(do not indicate that there is or was not elevated levels of CO)**
2. recommend occupants check their CO detector per manufacturer and reset detector **(under no circumstances will we reset a household detector)**
3. inform occupants that once detector is reset to call the fire department again if it reactivates.

FOR READINGS BETWEEN 9 PPM AND 100 PPM:

1. ANY READING ABOVE 9 PPM SHALL BE CONSIDERED ABOVE NORMAL (refer to SCBA protocol above)
2. inform occupants that our detection equipment has registered a potentially dangerous level of CO
3. recommend that all occupants leave the premises and begin to ventilate the structure
4. if an appliance is determined to be malfunctioning, turn it off if this can be done in a safe manner and advise the homeowner to contact the appropriate utility/service company

5. if the CO readings can be stabilized below 9 ppm, then the structure can be reoccupied AT THE DIRECTION OF THE OWNER (Stabilized is defined as readings below 9 ppm in an enclosed structure for a minimum of 20 minutes after ventilation is completed)
6. refer to #'s 2 and 3 in procedures below 9 ppm.

FOR READINGS ABOVE 100 PPM:

1. ANY READING ABOVE 100 PPM SHALL BE CONSIDERED POTENTIALLY LETHAL (refer to SCBA protocol)
2. ORDER THE OCCUPANTS TO EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY
3. Contact the utility company and inform them of our
4. begin ventilation
5. if utility company does not respond and the CO levels can be stabilized below ppm limit, then the structure can be reoccupied AT THE DISCRETION OF THE OWNER.
6. if the utility company responds, then upon arrival inform them of our findings and turn the incident over to the utility company representative.

findings

UPON LEAVING THE SCENE, FILL OUT AND ISSUE HOMEOWNER NOTIFICATION OF FINDINGS. WHEN FILLING OUR INCIDENT REPORT, INCLUDE THE CO INVESTIGATION CHECKLIST.