

**BURLINGTON TWP. FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE #41**

**CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS**

**Purpose:** That all personnel know the guidelines when dispatched to a CO Alarm.

**Scope:** For all personnel to know which apparatus respond and actions to take during a CO Alarm activation.

**Apparatus Response:**

1. 15-21
2. 15-51
3. Unit requested by I.C.
4. All other personnel shall remain at the hall on stand-by.

**Response:**

1. Personnel shall respond to the station for CO detector alarm calls.
2. Response will be non-emergency unless occupants have symptoms of CO poisoning, then response will be emergency.
3. If a Fire Officer's response route takes them by the alarm site, they may go directly to the alarm. The Fire Officer will not enter the structure until a CO monitor is on scene.
4. Response by department apparatus will be non-emergency, and all traffic laws will be obeyed. Exception: A Fire Officer may over-ride this and call for an emergency response.

**Upon arrival at scene Establish Incident Command:**

1. If no officer is available, the most senior Firefighter will be in charge as I.C. If there is a question of seniority, the driver of the engine will be the I.C.
2. Upon command of the I.C. all units will switch to the fire incident channel assigned by Central Dispatch. I.C. will request a fire incident channel if one is not assigned by Central Dispatch.
3. I.C. is to give a scene size up report and request any additional resources that are needed.
4. If/When transferring command, be sure to communicate all information that has been noted and all decisions made.
5. All personnel reporting in will place I.D. tag in its proper location. (Refer to Passport Accountability System S.O.G. #4).
6. All personnel shall wear all appropriate Personal Protective Equipment. Anyone entering any atmosphere that could be hazardous to their health must wear an SCBA.

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**Procedures:**

1. Attempt to verify if all residents have evacuated the structure.
2. A crew of two personnel will don the following PPE.
  - a. Structural Firefighting PPE provided by the Burlington Twp. Fire Department.
  - b. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.
  - c. If the building has been ventilated, the I.C. may change PPE requirements.
3. The crew making entry must have at least one member trained in the use of the department CO detector.
4. The department CO detector will be turned on and operation verified outside the building and away from all vehicles.
5. Entry will be made with the CO detector to measure the level of CO in the structure. As readings are taken, they shall be recorded on the CO Monitor Reading Record (attachment 1). As measuring is being conducted a complete search of the structure will be done. If any victims are found, they will be immediately removed from the structure and will be treated by a Burlington Twp. Fire Department MFR or EMS service.
6. If a level of 30 ppm or more is found, a ventilation operation will be started. At this time the resident will be informed to contact their heating contractor or local gas company. The residents are to be informed that they should not occupy the structure until repairs are made.
7. If no CO is detected the resident is to be informed of this fact and asked to contact their heating contractor or gas company for further testing.
8. In all cases the Burlington Twp. Fire Department acknowledgement form must be completed and signed by the I.C., the resident, and a witness (attachment 2).
9. Two copies must be filled out.
  - a. One copy is to be given to the occupant.
  - b. The other copy is to be attached to the fire report.
10. See chart for maximum allowable exposure limits and symptoms (attachment 3).
11. See operator's manual for any questions on the operation of the CO detector (attachment 4).
12. Check the structure for CO detectors installed by the resident. If more than one CO detector is located in the structure be sure to document each detector's information and location.
13. Record any additional findings on the incident report. (ie. non-vented heating units, a generator being used in the structure, etc.)

**Clearing the Scene:**

1. I.C. will clear the department from the location with Central Dispatch.
2. All apparatus and equipment will be refueled before returning to the station.
3. Everyone shall report back to the station for cleanup and After Incident Report.

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