



Frontline

Westerville Division of Fire Newsletter

Station 111
400 W. Main Street
Station 112
727 E. Schrock Road
Station 113
355 N. Spring Street
Emergencies
9-1-1
Non-emergencies
(614) 901-6600

Dangers of Carbon Monoxide

It's been called the silent killer. Carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless gas toxic to humans and animals, was the cause of 75 emergency calls in Westerville in 2012.

Carbon monoxide, known by the chemical symbol CO, acts as poison once inhaled. It attaches to the hemoglobin in the red blood cells, which carries oxygen throughout the body. When CO attaches, it blocks the oxygen the body must have, leading to hypoxia. CO is a byproduct of incomplete combustion. Any fuel burning device may produce dangerous levels of CO gas. In the home, heating and cooking equipment are potential sources of CO. Vehicles, generators and lawn equipment can also produce dangerous levels of CO.

The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, fatigue, nausea, vomiting and confusion. High levels of CO ingestion can cause loss of consciousness and death. The health effects of CO exposure can vary from person to person depending upon the level and length of exposure, as well as each individual's health condition.

Carbon monoxide can only be detected with a CO detector/ alarm. These detectors are available in plug-in, battery-powered or hardwired models. Before buying a CO detector, check to make sure it is listed with Underwriter's Laboratories (UL), standard 2034, or there is information on the package that states it is UL approved. Install a CO detector in the hallway near every sleeping area of the home. CO detectors should be replaced every five years. If the CO detector alarms, call 9-1-1. If you have any symptoms or feel ill, leave the home or building and await the Fire Division's arrival.

The Fire Division recommends the following safety tips to avoid a CO related emergency

Have your heating system, including chimneys and vents, inspected and serviced annually.

Ensure chimney flues are completely opened when fireplaces are in use.

Never use a gas appliance to heat your home.

Do not use unvented, fuel-burning space heaters indoors. All fuel-burning appliances should be fully vented to the outdoors.

Never use a gas or charcoal grill inside your home or in a garage.

Never use a generator inside homes, garages or crawlspaces, even when using fans or opening doors and windows for ventilation.

Never leave a vehicle, snow blower or lawnmower running in an attached garage, even when the garage door is open.

By knowing the symptoms of CO poisoning and following these safety tips, you can protect yourself and you family from the dangers of CO exposure.



Chief Ingles

From the Chief's Desk

Welcome to the premiere issue of Frontline, our first edition of the year to connect residents of Westerville to their fire safety services. The Westerville Division of Fire is more than 150 years old, and there have clearly been many changes and advances in the fire service. But one thing that has not changed in more than a century is our commitment to this community. The Division's firefighters, medics and administration consider ourselves your hometown fire department, and we want you to have the latest safety and prevention news and information as well as profiles in how the department works and the programs and services we provide.

Fire safety, education and prevention, along with community services, are part of our commitment to community outreach and engagement. From interacting with children and families during special events to hosting community programs like child seat inspection and installation, accessibility is as important as any other aspect of our mission.

This newsletter is part of our effort to keep you apprised of what we're working on, where you can find us, and ways to learn more about protecting your health and your property. If you have an idea for content, or a story you'd like to share from an encounter with the Division, please contact me at Bernard.Ingles@westerville.org. We hope you will take the opportunity to review the tips and updates provided here as we work together to continue Westerville's tradition as a safe and friendly place to live, work and play.

By the numbers



homes in Westerville to which emergency crews responded in 2012 to find residents exposed to dangerous carbon monoxide levels



top-of-the-class Westerville firefighter graduates from the Franklin County Firefighter/Grant Paramedic Program

minutes in average emergency response time for the Westerville Division of Fire



Top 5 EMS calls:

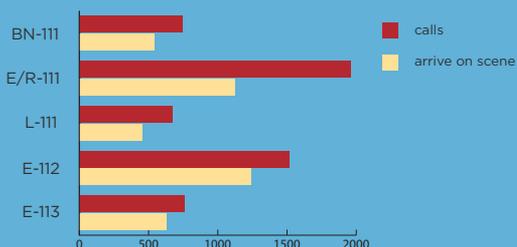


1. Ill Person
2. Shortness of Breath/
Difficulty Breathing
3. Chest Pain/Possible Heart
4. Injured Person
5. Vehicle Accident

90%

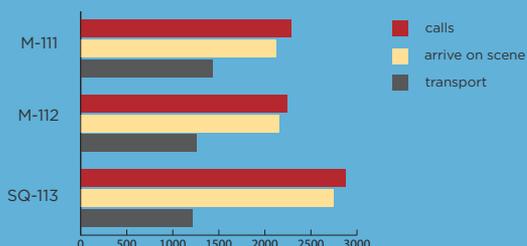
of fire deaths that occur in Ohio in houses are without working smoke alarms

Emergency Fire Response 2012



	BN-111	E/R-111	L-111	E-112	E-113
calls	749	1961	673	1517	762
on scene	543	1125	456	1237	632
on scene %	72.5	57.37	67.76	81.54	82.94

Emergency Medical Response 2012



	M-111	M-112	SQ-113
calls	2286	2240	2875
on scene	2126	2158	2746
transports	1434	1256	1216
transport %	62.77	56.07	42.3

Division NEWS



Announcements

Firefighter Scott Miller graduated from The Franklin County Firefighters/Grant Medical Center Paramedic Program on November 12, 2012. Firefighter Miller earned the highest grades in his class and was recognized as the honor graduate at the commencement ceremony.

Sandy Kitzmiller retired from the position of Administrative Secretary at the Division of Fire after 23 years of service to the City of Westerville.

Two Division employees were deployed to the New York City area after Hurricane Sandy. Battalion Chief Jim Marra was deployed with the Ohio Incident Management Team from November 6-13, 2012. Chief Marra worked in logistics and planning, making sure supplies were received and delivered to those in need. Firefighter Nick Jones was deployed with Ohio Task Force One from October 29 to November 7, 2012. Task force members checked on residents and delivered food, water and blankets.

Four new part-time firefighters began their employment in December of 2012. Welcome Paul McClaskey, Karl Eash, Matt Maihle and Cory Lang to the Westerville Division of Fire.

Did You Know ?

The Westerville Division of Fire serves Westerville and Blendon Township, a district area of approximately 18.77 square miles with a nighttime population of more than 48,000. The Division also responds to 17 public schools, a hospital, a university, and several business enterprises with more than 100 employees.

Citizen's Fire Academy

Community engagement is an important priority for the Westerville Division of Fire. Residents of Westerville and Blendon Township have an opportunity to have hands-on experience and learn more about the operations of our community fire services. Once a year, the Division hosts the Division hosts a free, 12-week Citizen's Fire Academy. The academy takes participants through basic training scenarios in firefighting and EMS, as well as provides certification in first aid and CPR. Graduates are invited to join the Citizen's Auxiliary Resource Team, a group of volunteers that assists the Fire Division with numerous community events during the year. For more information, please email Chief Fire Marshall Brian Miller at Brian.Miller@westerville.org.

Child Car Safety Seats

The Division of Fire offers professional child car seat installation and inspections by certified volunteers each week. Ohio law requires children less than four years old or 40 pounds to be secured in a child safety seat. Children under 8 years old, unless they are at least four feet, nine inches tall must use a booster seat. On Wednesday, installations/inspections take place at the main station (Station 111) at 400 W. Main Street in two shifts: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. There is no cost for this service, but appointments are required. Please call (614) 901-6600 for an appointment.

Winter Safety Reminder

A grill with a propane tank stored inside a garage is a major safety risk and potential hazard. In the event of a fire, the propane tank could create an explosion. Detach the propane tank or secure your entire grill outdoors/in a detached building.



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