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Dear Section 8 Landlord:

On December 18, 2013, Governor Tom Corbett signed legislation that requires carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in all homes that use gas, oil or coal or that have an attached garage. We have enclosed a copy of the notice that explains this requirement which also includes the web site you can visit that will help you determine where to place the CO detector. We are recommending that the detector be placed at the top of the basement steps or no closer than 10 feet from the heating source.

Also, the City of McKeesport has required for some years that all residential units have an occupancy permit. Since we make local law part of our Section 8 requirements for housing quality standards, it will be necessary to send us a copy of the permit. If you have applied for one and have yet to be approved, you must provide this office with proof of application. If you do not have one, we have enclosed an application that you will need to fill out and submit to the City of McKeesport, 500 Fifth Avenue, McKeesport, PA 15132 along with the appropriate fee.

if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Section 8 Department

Sharon Sanetsky-Kish: (412) 673-6942, EXT. 105 or skish@mckha.org

Shari Callahan: (412) 673-6942, EXT. 106 or scallahan@mckha.org

Carbon monoxide detectors are not expensive but do save lives.

BY CHRIS PARKER CPARKER@TNONLINE.COM - PUBLISHED ON [TIMES NEWS ONLINE](#)

As northeastern Pennsylvania heads into the coldest months of winter, with the threat of heavy snow and ice storms knocking out power, the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning rises as people fire up heaters and generators.

The appliances generate the colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly if inhaled.

In October 2012, an Albrightsville man died and other family members sickened after a generator in an attached garage leaked carbon monoxide fumes into their house.

Keeping generators outside, and properly maintaining and operating coal, gas or wood stoves can prevent carbon monoxide from leaking into rooms. But carbon monoxide detectors are the best insurance against the deadly gas.

On December 18, Gov. Tom Corbett signed legislation that requires carbon monoxide detectors to be installed in homes that burn fossil fuels coal, oil or gas for heat, or that have an attached garage.

The law also requires a seller to tell a potential buyer about the installation of detectors. The bill was sponsored by state Sen. Pat Browne, R-16, and co-sponsored by Sen. David G. Argall R-29.

“Many of us know local people who have tragically lost their lives due to carbon monoxide poisoning. Many of these tragedies could be avoided with a simple carbon monoxide detector, which is why I supported this legislation and made it a priority for the committee I chair in the Senate,” said Argall, who chairs the Senate Urban Affairs and Housing Committee.

Each year, carbon monoxide poison-

ing kills more than 400 people each year in the United States, and sends another 20,000 to emergency rooms, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The gas is not only hazardous for people inside a home; it also endangers rescue workers.

On December 30, the Eastern PA EMS Council announced that it has begun to outfit EMS units in Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton and Schuylkill counties with portable and highly sophisticated carbon monoxide detectors.

The EMS Council bought pager-sized CO detectors for over 400 EMS units that respond to emergency 911 requests.

“These highly sophisticated devices are carried into homes, businesses and other locations during the course of the emergency response and have become a standardized item in the cache of tools carried by responding EMS professionals,” the council said in a press release.

The detectors are designed to recognize very low levels of the gas, and to alert carriers via audio and digital alarms.

“If it activates, you evacuate. This message clearly defines the dangers associated with the gas and the need for both patient and EMS to expeditiously remove themselves from the danger,” said the council’s executive director, John Kloss.

Steve Ohl, president of R.F. Ohl Fuel Oil, advises people to install carbon monoxide detectors in their homes.

The devices cost about \$25 at most hardware and general merchandise stores, and are easily installed.



“CO detectors should be in every home, regardless of the main heating source,” Ohl said. “You never know if something your neighbor is doing is affecting your home, particularly if you live in a row home. The cost is minimal, compared to your life.”

Ohl recommends people visit carbonmonoxidedetectorplacement.com to determine where to install the devices.

“At a minimum, I would recommend CO detectors on every floor of your house, including the basement,” he said.

Experts advise placing the detectors on walls, a couple of feet from the ceiling. Avoid placing them within 15 feet of fossil-fuel burning stoves or heaters, in bathrooms or in direct sunlight.



CITY OF MCKEESPORT
500 Fifth Avenue | McKeesport, PA 15132

APPLICATION FOR RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCY CERTIFICATE

Real Estate Transfer Date: _____ Date of Application: _____

Property Address: _____

Name of New Owner: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Intended Residential Occupancy:

- Single Family
2-Family
Multi-family

Total Dwelling Units: _____

- Owner Occupied
Renter Occupied (list tenant names, SS# below):

Finance Office Certification

- EIT MSF Sewage

SIGNATURE DATE

Application is hereby made for permission to occupy the premise above described/or the purpose herein stated. If such use complies with provisions of all laws and ordinances, and certificate of occupancy is used, it is understood by the applicant that the said certificate will authorize only the use stated in this application and that such use may not legally be extended or changed without authorization in a new certificate of occupancy. If the building located on these premises or any part of the said building is to be occupied as a dwelling, the applicant understands that the occupancy thereof is to be limited to the number of families stated in this application.

APPLICANTSIGNATURE PRINT NAME DATE

This is to certify that _____ is in compliance with the Building Code of the City of McKeesport and is permitted to occupy said premises or buildings for purpose as stated in this application.

X _____, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he/she is Owner-Lessee-Agent of the premises herein described and that the statements made in this application are true and correct as he/she verily believes.

Inspected By

BUILDING INSPECTOR FIRE CHIEF
FIRE DEPARTMENT: 412-675-5050 [EXT 667 OR 664]