
‘PERSONAL HEALTH: Watching for the Warning Signs of an Invisible Killer

You can't see it, hear it, smell it, taste it or feel it. But it can poison or even kill you without you ever realizing it's around. It is the deadly gas, carbon monoxide, and winter is the season it does most of its damage. Despite annual warnings about the many sources of carbon monoxide and how problems can be prevented and detected before it's too late, this product of combustion kills an estimated 2,100 people who did not intend to die and sickens 10,000 others in the United States each year.

All too often, the flu-like symptoms that are early warning signs of carbon monoxide poisoning are mistakenly attributed to a viral infection, and victims are sent home or back to work to breathe yet more of the deadly gas. Babies and small children (including unborn children), those with chronic heart or lung diseases and the elderly are especially sensitive to the harmful effects of carbon monoxide and are among those who are least likely to respond appropriately to the first signs of trouble.”

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