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### **CO detectors can protect against ‘invisible killer’**

You will breathe easier this winter, while taking a big step toward protecting yourself and your family by installing carbon monoxide (or CO) detectors in your home. This year, the Kane County Healthy Places Coalition, the Kane County Health Department and several local home improvement stores are partnering to promote the purchase of CO detectors and their proper installation.

You should know that CO is a colorless, odorless gas that is produced anytime fuel is burned and can cause serious illness or even death. That’s why it is known as the “invisible killer.” Even in low concentrations, carbon monoxide can cause flu-like symptoms. Many appliances in your home can cause CO buildup, particularly if they are malfunctioning or improperly vented. Furnaces, water heaters, clothes dryers, stoves and ovens, and many other sources are common culprits.

“It is important to have a CO detector in your home to alert you if Carbon Monoxide gas is present, since it is poisonous. These detectors are inexpensive and give you time to correct the problem or call for help,” said Batavia Fire Department Lt. Casey Balsitis. “CO detectors can also warn you of other problems, such as malfunctioning battery backup devices for computers or sump pumps. These backup batteries can produce hydrogen gas and will cause a CO detector to alarm.”

In Batavia alone during 2016, the Batavia Fire Department has responded to 47 emergency calls related to CO. Most CO detectors last six years and are well worth the small investment. Remember to change your batteries every six months just like you do for smoke detectors. Further, your furnace and other fuel-burning appliances require regular maintenance. If you must use gas-powered generators, they need to be operated safely.

(MORE)

The Carbon Monoxide Alarm Detector Act mandates their use in Illinois. *"Effective January 1, 2007, every Illinois home is required to have at least one carbon monoxide alarm in an operating condition within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping purposes."*

The Healthy Places Coalition is formed by participants from diverse aspects of the community, including the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Kane County Health Department, municipal governments, hospitals, fire departments, community advocacy groups, non-profits, private corporations, and many others.

Carbon Monoxide Business Partners:

Ace Hardware, 2144 W. Galena Blvd., Aurora  
Ace Hardware, 994 N. Lake St., Aurora  
Ace Hardware, 1901 W. Wilson St., Batavia  
Ace Hardware, 617 W. State St., Geneva  
Ace Hardware, 2650 E Main St., St. Charles  
Ziegler Ace Hardware, Meadowdale Shopping Center, Carpentersville  
Ziegler Ace Hardware, 215 N. Spring St., Elgin  
Ziegler Ace Hardware, 1158 Lillian St., Elgin  
Ziegler Ace Hardware, 301 Randall Road, South Elgin  
Home Depot, 1250 N. Orchard Road, Aurora  
Home Depot, 2111 S. Randall Road, Geneva  
Lowe's, 955 S. Randall Road, St. Charles

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Photo ID

From left, Joel Gonzalez, manager, Batavia Ace Hardware, Chris LaFleur, firefighter/paramedic, Batavia Fire Department, and Lt. Casey Balsitis, Batavia Fire Department, recommend installing CO detectors in your home.