

# Springdale Fire Department

## Policy & Procedures Manual

### Volume 2 – Operations

#### Section 203 – Fire Operations

##### 203.19 Responding to Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

In the event SFD personnel receive a direct telephone call, or face to face contact from the general public regarding a CO detector sounding, the following information shall be obtained.

- Reporting individual's name, address, and phone number.
- All information concerning potential patients, or persons suffering from potential illness related to CO.

SFD personnel shall immediately forward this complete information to Dispatch so that appropriate units (based on the information gathered) may be dispatched.

Reports of CO detectors sounding with no occupants showing signs or symptoms of illness shall receive a Code 1 response by an Engine Company. Only Engine or Truck Companies are to be dispatched to CO Alarms. Rescue 1 is not to be dispatched in place of an Engine or Truck Company unless authorized by a Chief Officer.

Reports of CO detectors sounding with occupants showing signs or symptoms of illness shall receive a Code 3 response by an Engine Company and a Squad.

The SFD CO Investigation Form shall be completed for all CO Alarms and turned into the Division Chief of Operations. All SFD meter readings (including baseline readings) of both ambient and concentrated levels of CO are to be recorded on the CO Investigation Form.

When completing an NFIRS incident report for a CO Alarm where CO was detected, the "incident type" code is 424. If CO was not detected the "incident type" code is 736 or 746 (whichever is most appropriate). Advice or recommendations given to the occupant(s) must be documented in the NFIRS incident narrative.

The multi-gas meters maintained on all Engines, Truck 1, and Battalion 1 are the only definitive way to determine the risk of CO to occupants and responders. In addition to carbon monoxide, each multi-gas meter measures flammability ranges, oxygen levels, and the presence of hydrogen sulfide. All personnel shall be familiar with the operation and usage of these meters.

Prior to entering the structure personnel must turn on the meter and allow it to zero in a fresh air environment. The determination of whether CO is present is accomplished primarily by taking ambient meter readings from the center of all interior rooms. Concentrated meter readings may be taken from gas fired appliances, particularly furnaces, water heaters, fireplaces, and cooking appliances.

Based on SFD meter readings, personnel shall take the following actions at incidents involving elevated levels of CO:

### **CO readings of less than 9 parts per million (PPM)**

- Inform the occupant(s) that SFD meter readings do not indicate an elevated level of CO at this time.
- Recommend the occupant(s) check their CO detector per the manufacturer's recommendations and attempt to reset the detector.
- Suggest the occupant(s) replace the CO detector if it was manufactured before October 1, 1998 with a new alarm that meets UL, CSA, or IAS standards.
- Advise occupant(s) to call 911 if their CO detector activates again.

### **CO readings of more than 9 PPM but less than 70 PPM**

- Inform occupant(s) that a potentially dangerous level of CO has been detected, request the occupant(s) leave the structure until ventilation reduces the CO level to 9 PPM or less.
- Shut off any appliance that appears to be malfunctioning, producing CO.
- Ventilate the structure (Open windows, turn on exhaust fans, etc).
- Advise Dispatch to notify Arkansas Western Gas (AWG) to respond to the location.
- Systematically turn on appliances while monitoring for CO levels to begin elevating, if a definitive source of CO can be identified disable the appliance, provide this information to the AWG representative.
- Advise occupant(s) to call 911 if their CO detector activates again.

### **CO readings of greater than 70 PPM**

- Inform the occupant(s) that a dangerous level of CO has been detected, advise the occupant(s) to leave the structure immediately, do not allow re-entry by occupant(s) until ventilation lowers the CO level to 9 PPM or less.
- Shut off any appliance that appears to be malfunctioning, producing CO.
- Ventilate the structure (Open windows, turn on exhaust fans, etc).
- Advise Dispatch to notify Arkansas Western Gas (AWG) to respond to the location.
- Systematically turn on appliances while monitoring for CO levels to begin elevating, if a definitive source of CO can be identified disable the appliance, provide this information to the AWG representative.
- SFD personnel shall use SCBA when working in any atmosphere where carbon monoxide levels are in excess of 100 PPM.
- Advise occupant(s) to call 911 if their CO detector activates again.