



## City of St. Joseph

923 Broad Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085

(269) 983-1442

**Public Safety Department**

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Carbon Monoxide is an colorless, odorless gas. It is often referred to as the "silent killer" because it is virtually undetectable without using detection technology and most do not realize they are being poisoned.<sup>[1]</sup> Elevated levels of CO can be dangerous to humans depending on the amount present and length of exposure. Smaller concentrations can be harmful over longer periods of time while increasing concentrations require diminishing exposure times to be harmful.<sup>[2]</sup>

CO detectors are designed to measure CO levels over time and sound an alarm before dangerous levels of CO accumulate in an environment, giving people adequate warning to safely ventilate the area or evacuate. Some system-connected detectors also alert a monitoring service that can dispatch emergency services if necessary

It is recommended that an carbon monoxide detector be installed in each separate sleeping area, each bedroom, top of the basement stairs.

Carbon monoxide detectors **should not** be installed any closer than 20 feet from a furnace of fuel burning heat sources (such as water heaters, fireplaces, etc.).