

Newberg Rural  
Fire Protection  
District

# Think Safety...

Promoting Emergency Preparedness Around the House

THINK SAFETY

Fall 2010

You're  
Invited!

Newberg Fire  
Department's  
Turkey Carnival  
Nov. 12 & 13

Think Safety...

is a semi-annual publication, edited and printed by the Newberg Fire Department on behalf of the Newberg Rural Fire Protection District. Rural board members: Stan Gaibler, John Fawcett, Dennis Sturdevant, Eric Bergquam, and Larry Bohnsack.



## New Carbon Monoxide Detector Law Takes Effect

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, charcoal, natural gas, propane, or oil) burn incompletely. Heaters, cooking appliances, or fireplace that burn fuel are potential sources of CO. Vehicles running in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of CO, even with the main garage door open.

According to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, approximately 2,100 people die from CO poisoning every year in the U.S. with over 10,000 others injured.

When inhaled, CO molecules attach to red blood cells instead of oxygen. This decreases the amount of necessary oxygen from reaching your brain, heart, and other vital organs. A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a long period of time or by a large amount of CO over a short amount of time. People suffering from emphysema, asthma, or heart disease can be more severely affected by lower concentrations of CO than healthy adults. Also at higher risk are unborn babies, infants, and senior citizens.

Initial symptoms are similar to the flu but without the fever: headache, fatigue, short-

ness of breath, nausea, dizziness, and skin may turn bright red. Severe symptoms include: mental confusion, vomiting, loss of muscular coordination, loss of consciousness, and ultimately death.

To combat CO poisoning, a new law requires the installation of CO detectors in certain residential properties. The implementation requirements are as follows.

**JULY 1, 2010** – For all new rental agreements, landlords must provide properly functioning CO alarms for dwelling units with a CO source.

**APRIL 1, 2011** – Landlords must provide properly functioning CO alarms for all rental dwelling units containing a CO source.

**APRIL 1, 2011** – Sellers of one and two family dwellings, manufactured dwellings, or multifamily housing units containing a CO source must install properly functioning CO alarms before selling.

**APRIL 1, 2011** – CO alarms are required in new residential construction or remodels.

The new law only pertains to homes with a CO source. An attached garage that has a doorway into the living space of the home is considered a source. If your home is completely sup-

plied by electricity only (there is no natural gas, propane, fireplace, woodstove, pellet stove, or heating oil) and you do not have an attached garage, you are exempt from the new law.

The law requires a CO alarm be installed on each level of your home that has sleeping areas. The detector can either be installed inside each bedroom or within 15 feet of each sleeping room.

Avoid installing CO detectors in garages, kitchens, dusty, dirty, humid, or greasy areas. Also do not install in turbulent air such as near ceiling fans, heat and air conditioner vents, fresh air returns, or open windows. Blowing air may prevent CO from reaching the sensors. Do not install directly above or beside fuel-burning appliances, as appliances may emit a trace amount of CO only upon start-up.

What is the best course of action if the CO detector alarms? **Don't ignore the alarm!** Silence the alarm and move everyone outside to fresh air and call for help. If anyone is experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning, call 9-1-1. If no one has symptoms, ventilate the building and contact a qualified service technician.

## Don't forget your FREE address sign!

The highly visible green address signs are a tremendous help in our response to your emergency.

To order your free sign go to [www.newbergoregon.gov](http://www.newbergoregon.gov) or call us at 503-537-1230.

## Electrical Safety...



*Electricity is part of our every day lives, and its use will only increase. Let's be safe around it.*

- Never use a radio, hairdryer or other electric device around water.
- Bathroom outlets should have a Ground Fault Interrupter (GFI) installed. GFIs automatically trip the electricity off if a fault is detected.
- If outlets, switches, or a breaker feels warm or you have flickering or dimming lights, contact an electrician.
- Only use power strips with circuit protection, and plug them directly into an outlet.
- If a power line falls on your car, **stay inside your car!** You are safe as long as you remain inside. If one foot touches the ground and

the other is in the electrified car, you complete the circuit to ground and can be electrocuted.

- Downed power lines across a metal fence can energize the entire fence. This also applies to a field of connected irrigation pipe.
- Never, Never touch a downed power line—with anything. EVER!!!

Use extreme care when digging in your yard. PGE and other Oregon utilities will help locate underground lines so you can avoid damaging them. Just call 811 to reach the Oregon Utility Notification Center.

Always call  
811 before  
you dig.

## Tamper-Resistant Electrical Outlets

According to the National Fire Protection Agency, 2400 kids suffer severe electrical shock or electrical burns, and 12 die each year from sticking items into the slots of electrical outlets.

Protective devices, such as outlet caps and sliding outlet covers, have been on the market for years to help combat this problem. Unfortunately, these prod-

ucts present their own risks. Caps can be removed or fall out becoming a choking hazard, and kids learn to operate sliding covers by watching others.

Electrical codes now require new and remodeled homes to have *tamper-resistant outlets*. These outlets have spring-loaded shutters that close off the slots. When a plug is inserted into the outlet, both

springs are compressed simultaneously, opening the shutters, allowing for the metal prongs to make contact to create an electrical circuit. Because both springs must be compressed at the same time, the shutters do not open when a child attempts to insert an object into only one contact opening, and there is no contact with electricity.

## Prepare Now

Power outages are not the time to start searching for a flashlight! Be prepared—put a small kit together today including these items.

- Flashlight and batteries
- Battery-powered radio
- Manual can opener
- Battery-powered or wind-up alarm clock
- Bottled water
- Disposable plates and utensils
- Extra blankets

Have a phone list of friends and family members and a plan for contacting them. Remember, cordless phones will not work, but hardwire and cell phones may continue to work.

Plan ahead for a place to go if necessary in an extended outage.

Consider getting a generator. This is vitally important for those with life-support equipment or refrigerated medications.

**When the power goes out—  
Do Not use candles for light.**

TO REPORT A  
POWER OUTAGE  
CALL

800-544-1795

## Back-up Power — Stay out of the Dark

Generator power may be just the answer when the normal electrical service goes out.

### Generator Safety

Generators are a convenient back-up solution during a power outage, *if* you use it safely. Before turning on a generator, read and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

- Always operate your portable generator outside. It is gas or diesel powered. Place it in a well-ventilated area away from doors, windows, and your ga-

rage. Deadly carbon monoxide can be drawn into your house and poison your family.

- To avoid getting shocked use only an outdoor-rated, grounded extension cord — one with a GFI (ground-fault interrupter) is best.

- Never plug an extension cord from the generator into an outlet in your home thinking that this will power the whole house. **This is extremely dangerous!** Connecting a generator with a regular outlet can not

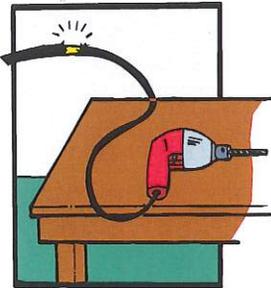
only ruin your home's wiring and start a fire, it can also back feed electricity into the utility system and energize a line thought to be without power. Only connect individual appliances to the receptacle outlet of the generator.

- Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down .

- Don't overload your generator. Follow wattage guidelines in your owner's manual.

We receive a huge number of emergency calls during snow & ice events, so response may be delayed.

## ...More Electrical Safety



- **C u t**, punctured, or scuffed electric cords are dangerous! Replace them.

- Never run a cord under rugs, through doors, or through a wet area.
- If an appliance sparks or buzzes, turn it off and get it fixed.
- Don't overload circuits.

- Never stick a fork into a toaster to retrieve a stuck piece of bread while the toaster is plugged in.

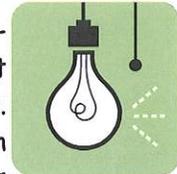
- You don't have to touch a wire to get shocked. Electricity can "leap" to a conductor, such as a ladder, if close to an energized wire. Always keep yourself and metal objects at least 10' away from power lines.

- Grounded, three-pronged extension cords are mandatory for outdoor

work. The third prong is a ground and will prevent shocks.

- Ground Fault Interrupters (GFI) are a good investment for all outdoor circuits.

- The surface temperature of a 100 watt light bulb is nearly 500 degrees. A 60 watt bulb can reach 260 degrees. Place lamps on solid, level surfaces and turn them off when leaving the room.



## Personal Profile

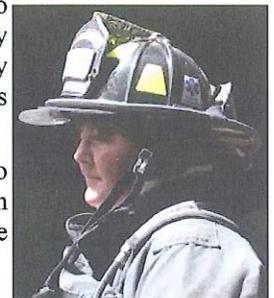
Firefighting is a family affair for the Roberson's. Two of our most active volunteers met after joining the fire department in 1998. Now married and raising 8 year old son Austin,

both Brian and Kathy have each given hundreds of hours of their time to the community.

Kathy has been President of the Volunteer Association for the last 4 years. She became interested in firefighting after experiencing Oregon's Springbreak Quake in 1993. When not responding to emer-

gencies, her favorite function is delivering toys at Christmas to those kids in our Toy & Joy Program. Brian was recently promoted to Lieutenant, and is one of our driving instructors.

The Roberson's like to spend their free time together on Mt. Hood hiking near White River.



Newberg Rural Fire  
Protection District  
414 E 2nd St  
Newberg, OR 97132

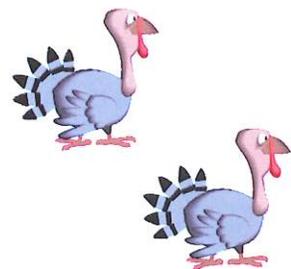
Bulk Rate  
US Postage PAID  
Permit No. 184  
Newberg, OR

*Have A Fire Safe Holiday Season*

69th Annual  
Turkey Carnival



Don't Miss It!!  
Games...Bingo...Prizes  
Fun for kids ages 2 to 100



Kitchen Opens at 6:00pm  
Games Start at 6:30pm

**Menu**

Includes Hamburgers, Hotdogs,  
Wendy's Chili, and Pie

***Fri Nov 12th & Sat Nov 13th***

Newberg Fire Station 20  
414 E 2nd St

Join us as we celebrate 69 years of providing kids games, food, and fun.  
All proceeds benefit our 81st annual Toy & Joy program.