



SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Renton Regional Fire Authority

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

January 2023

Preventing Frozen Pipes

Temperatures below freezing can cause pipes in your home to leak due to expanded, frozen water within. Use these tips to avoid indoor flooding and/or other dangers.

- **Repair** and seal cracks around windows and doors that can allow cold air to reach indoors.
- **Seal** around pipe openings to prevent cold airflow.
- **Remove, drain and store** outdoor hoses and close inside valves that supply outdoor lines.
- **Open** outside valves during winter months so that remaining water can expand without breaking pipes.
- **Know** the location of the shut-off valve for your water supply.
- **Keep** the thermostat above 55 degrees, even when traveling.
- **Open** kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to give indoor plumbing access to warmer air. **Allow** faucets to drip.
- **Monitor** water-based fire protection systems.



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It's a new year and time for a fresh start when it comes to fire safety! Resolve to spending just a few minutes reviewing the included winter safety information to make sure you start your new year off safely!

Understanding Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:

Carbon monoxide, or CO is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death. CO is produced by burning gasoline, wood, propane, charcoal, or other fuel. Improperly ventilated appliances and engines, particularly in a tightly sealed or enclosed space, may allow carbon monoxide to accumulate to dangerous levels.

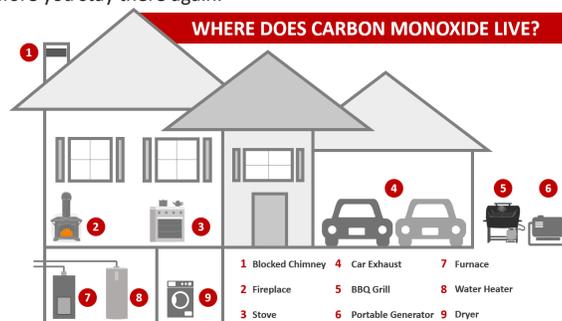
Poisoning Signs:

The most common symptoms of CO are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. Poisoning occurs when carbon monoxide builds up in your bloodstream. When too much carbon monoxide is in the air, your body replaces the oxygen in your red blood cells with carbon monoxide. This can lead to serious tissue damage, or even death. Consider these prevention tips.

• **Install carbon monoxide detectors.** Put one in the hallway near each sleeping area in your house. Check the batteries every time you check your smoke detector batteries. If the alarm sounds, leave the house and call 911 or the fire department. Carbon monoxide detectors are also available for motor homes and boats.

• **Open the garage door before starting your car.** Never leave your car running in your garage. Be particularly cautious if you have an attached garage. Leaving your car running in a space attached to the rest of your house is never safe, even with the garage door open.

• **Make repairs before returning to the site of an incident.** If carbon monoxide poisoning has occurred in your home, it's critical to find and repair the source of the carbon monoxide before you stay there again.



Generator Safety:

Portable generators are useful during winter storms, but if not used safely, they can cause injuries and death.

- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.
- Make sure you have carbon monoxide alarms in your home.
- Do not use a generator in a wet area. This can cause shock or electrocution.
- Connect appliances to the generator with heavy-duty extension cords.
- Do not fuel your generator when it is running. Spilling gas on a hot engine can cause a fire.





December 2022 Significant Incidents:

- 2,066 Total Incidents (RFA Responses)
- 0 Significant EMS Calls
- 1 Significant Fire Calls
- 0 Significant Special Ops Call
- 10 Significant Malicious False Alarm Calls

Incident Details:

• On December 16, 2022, Renton RFA responded to a residential fire in Station 17's area on the 15000 block of 124th Pl SE. Renton RFA responded with Puget Sound Regional Fire and 1 ladder unit, 1 aid unit, 3 engines, 2 officer rigs and 2 investigator units for a total of 17 RFA personnel. Units arrived on scene to report light smoke coming from the eaves of the home. Homeowner indicated the alarm app showed a fire on the right side of the stove top with smoke in the kitchen and confirmed there were no residents inside. Crews put out the fire then searched the entire structure and reported nothing found. The cause of the fire was combustibles on the right side of the stove top. No injuries were reported.

For more information, please visit our website: <https://rentonrfa.com>

