



Carbon Monoxide Safety Awareness

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - (Toronto, January 19, 2005) As the colder weather settles in, safety experts are urging people to be extra careful with fuel burning appliances in their homes to prevent the serious hazards of Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA), Ontario's fuels safety organization, is reminding you to protect your family and friends from the dangers of CO in your home this winter by ensuring that your furnace, other fuel-burning appliances, vents and chimneys are in safe working order.

There have been a number of CO poisoning incidents over the past few weeks, which have resulted in serious injury and, in extreme cases, death.

"Public awareness and education is the best protection against this potentially deadly gas," said Mike Scarland, Operations Manager for the Fuels Safety Program at TSSA. "Increased awareness of the danger, combined with measures people can take to protect themselves and their families will help prevent incidents of CO poisoning. Regular inspection of furnace and fuel-burning appliances by a certified heating technician is the best way to reduce incidents. It is also important to have a CO detector in every home as a secondary line of defense."

Carbon monoxide is a tasteless, colourless and odourless poisonous gas often referred to as 'the silent killer'. It is produced when fuels such as natural gas, oil, wood, propane and kerosene do not get enough air to burn up completely. Damaged or blocked venting as well as inadequate airflow can allow carbon monoxide to build up inside a home, a cottage camper or tent. Further information on CO safety is available from TSSA and at www.safetyinfo.ca

TSSA is an innovative, self-funded company focused on delivering public safety services. TSSA provides not-for-profit regulatory safety services in industry sectors such as amusement devices, boilers and pressure vessels, elevating devices, natural gas, petroleum, propane fuels and equipment, operating engineers, and upholstered and stuffed articles. The company's wide range of regulated and discretionary consultancy safety services include public education and consumer information, training and certification, licensing and registration, engineering design review, inspection, investigations, safety management consultation, and enforcement and prosecution activities. The company's vision is to be the world leader in public safety services.

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