

ECHO Script

Emergency and Community Health Outreach



Draft Script
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ECHO Show "Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Alarms" Word count: 520

-1-

Family in a home

Nothing is more important than the safety of you and your family. So it's especially important that your home is as safe as it can be.

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More family

There are some simple steps you can take to protect your home against two potential killers: carbon monoxide and smoke.

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House fire

Every year, people die in house fires in Minnesota, many of them children. Many of these lives would have been saved by properly installed, working smoke alarms.

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Smoke detectors on shelf

Smoke alarms are relatively inexpensive. You can buy them at hardware, home improvement and discount stores.

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Person installing detector

Make sure you have a *working* smoke alarm on every level of your home, and one in every bedroom.

-6-

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Person tests the alarm, checks batteries

Test the alarms once a month, and change their batteries at least once a year. Replace the alarms every 10 years or so.

-7-

Family makes a plan or gets out of the house

You'll also need to have a family plan on what to do if the smoke alarm goes off. The most important thing is to get out of the house as quickly as possible.

-8-

Family gathers outside

After everyone is out safely, gather at a pre-set meeting place, such as a tree or a mailbox. That way you know everyone is accounted for.

-9-

Happy family

People who have working smoke alarms in their home are much more likely to safely escape from a fire as those who do not.

-10-

CO detector

Another way to protect your family is with a carbon monoxide alarm.

-11-

Furnace or water heater

Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas that can leak into your home. The chemical formula is CO. It can come from places like improperly working furnaces and water heaters, or a car's exhaust in an attached garage.

-12-

Person looking sick

In smaller amounts, carbon monoxide can make you feel like you have the flu: it can cause headaches, dizziness and weakness.

At higher concentrations, CO affects your vision and coordination, and it can lead to brain damage and death.

-13-

CO detector

Because you can't see, smell or taste carbon monoxide gas, you must have a CO alarm to warn you when it is present.

-14-

CO detector on shelves

CO alarms are available at hardware, home improvement and discount stores. They can be battery powered or plug-in.

-15-

CU of label

Make sure the alarm's package says it is UL listed, and read the owner's manual completely when you install it. Smoke alarms should also be UL listed.

-16-

Person installing one

According to Minnesota law, you must install an approved carbon monoxide alarm within ten feet of each bedroom in your home.

-17-

Person testing

Like smoke alarms, you should test CO alarms regularly, and change them every five years.

-18-

Family leaving house

If your carbon monoxide alarm sounds, and someone in the home is suddenly feeling sick, leave the house immediately and call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's home.

-19-

Windows, outdoor shots

If the alarm sounds and no one is feeling any symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, open your windows and turn on fans to get fresh air into the house. Then call an appliance repair person to find the cause of the alarm AND call the fire department, who will make sure the air is safe to breathe.

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Happy family

Both smoke alarms and CO alarms are relatively inexpensive—but every year, they save thousands of lives. Install them in your home so they can help protect you and your family.