

Carbon Monoxide Detector

Definition: A device that detects elevated levels of CO and signals people via audio or visual alarm for the purposes of preventing CO poisoning.

Name carbon monoxide alarm, CO detector, CO alarm
Variants:

Most plastic, electronics
Common
Materials:

Most sensor, power source, casing, wiring, base
Common
Components:

Location & Inspection of CO Carbon Monoxide Detector

Abilities or Knowledge Needed:	- Visual acuity for location & inspection - Mobility for access to all areas of the property - Audio acuity for detection of functionality
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Tools for Location & Inspection	Useful:	flashlight
	Required:	rod or pole to reach and engage test button

Common Locations:	Unit/Inside:	Vicinity of sleeping areas in a unit where there is a fuel-fired/combustion (gas, wood, oil) appliance (furnace, water heater, fireplace, stove/range) anywhere in the building, or a room that shares a wall, floor, or ceiling with a garage. Bedrooms where fuel-fired appliances are installed.
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How to Locate:	Visual Observation:	Look on ceilings and walls in, or in the vicinity of, common locations.
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Possible Deficiencies:	Deficiency 1:	Carbon monoxide detector is not installed near sleeping areas.
	Deficiency 2:	Carbon monoxide detector obstructed from receiving air flow
	Deficiency 3:	Carbon monoxide detector does not produce audio or visual alarm when tested.

Deficiency 1: Carbon monoxide detector is not installed near sleeping areas.

Rationale:	Maintenance:	Indicates maintenance staff is not identifying deficiencies or responding to self-generated or complaint-driven work orders.
	Health and Safety:	Increases probability of harm to residents by carbon dioxide to due to lack of warning. Increases stress of residents if aware their safety is compromised to due to a lack of warning systems.

Health and Safety:	Severe:	This is a life-threatening or severe health and safety issue requiring a 24-hour repair, correction, or act of abatement.
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How to Inspect:	Request for Info:	Ask the POA representative if there is a fuel-fired or combustion appliance in the building, or if a garage shares a common wall, ceiling, or floor with the area you're inspecting.
	Visual Observation:	Look—if the POA representative answers in the affirmative—to confirm this information and to check for the presence of a carbon monoxide detector on walls, ceilings, and stairwells near each sleeping unit.

Record deficiency if:	a carbon monoxide detector is not present near each sleeping area.
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Deficiency 2: Carbon monoxide detector obstructed from receiving air flow

Rationale:	Maintenance:	Indicates maintenance staff is not identifying deficiencies or responding to self-generated or complaint-driven work orders.
	Health and Safety:	Increases probability of harm to residents by carbon monoxide to due to lack of warning. Increases stress of residents if aware their safety is compromised to due to a lack of warning systems.

Health and Safety:	Severe:	This is a life-threatening or severe health and safety issue requiring a 24-hour repair, correction, or act of abatement.
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How to Inspect:	Visual Observation:	Look for presence of a carbon monoxide detector and see if smoke detector is covered by a foreign object, such as a plastic bag, shower cap, zip-tie, or tape.
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Record deficiency if:	a foreign object is covering the carbon monoxide detector partially or completely.
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Deficiency 3: Carbon monoxide detector does not produce audio or visual alarm when tested.

Rationale: Maintenance: Indicates maintenance staff is not identifying deficiencies or responding to self-generated or complaint-driven work orders.

Health and Safety: Increases probability of harm to residents by carbon monoxide due to lack of warning. Increases stress of residents if aware their safety is compromised due to a lack of warning systems.

Health and Safety **Severe:** **This is a life-threatening or severe health and safety issue requiring a 24-hour repair, correction, or act of abatement.**

How to Inspect:

Visual Observation: Look at carbon monoxide detector to find a test button. If no test button is present, disregard this deficiency. If a test button is present, continue these steps.

Action: If test button is less than 8 feet high, press test button.

Request for Help: If test button is over 8 feet high, ask POA representative to press test button.

Visual Observation: Look to see if light on carbon monoxide detector flashes, strobes, or changes pattern in any way.

Audio Observation: Listen to hear if an alarm is emitted from the carbon monoxide detector.

Record deficiency if: carbon monoxide detector does not emit audio and/or visual alarm.