

## CS-CO-01 Carbon Monoxide Supervising Station Response Standard

### 1.0\* Scope

This standard defines the response procedure for a supervising station to a Carbon Monoxide (CO) detector alarm transmitted to the supervising station. The standard applies to both residential and commercial installations.

### General

Installation, test and maintenance of a Carbon Monoxide alarm system shall be in accordance with NFPA 720.

### 2.0\* Supervising Station Procedure.

Upon receipt at the supervising station of a CO alarm signal, the supervising station **shall** first call the premises and then proceed as shown below.

#### 2.1.\* If someone answers the telephone:

The occupants shall be instructed to leave the premises and move to fresh air.

The supervising station shall ask the following questions of the individual answering the telephone:

- a) Are all the occupants accounted for and are they out of the premises?
- b) Is anyone nauseous, ill, have a headache or dizzy?

The supervising station shall instruct the occupants not to re-enter the premises until cleared by the responding fire service.

The supervising station shall then immediately call the **public fire service communications center** to inform them of the alarm. The communications center should be informed that the occupants answered the telephone that they were told to leave the premises and of any reported symptoms.

#### 2.2. If no one answers the telephone:

The supervising station shall then immediately call the fire service communications center and report that a CO alarm was received from a particular premises and they were unable to reach an occupant.

2.3.\* In the case of 2.2, after dispatch, the supervising station shall contact the responsible party(s) in accordance with the **notification plan**.

### 3.0\* Premises Access.

All buildings with a CO system or detector monitored at a supervising station shall be equipped with a means of providing emergency access to all areas of the premises as required by the **authority having jurisdiction**.

## Annex

**A. 1.0.** Carbon Monoxide (CO) Carbon Monoxide is fundamentally different risk than either smoke or fire. It is odorless; colorless; it is not a danger to loss of property but is a lethal danger to people and pets. The public is not currently educated in evaluating the risk or the effects of CO. Unlike smoke or fire our human senses are not able to assist in the evaluation process. CO is present at some level in many homes that have fossil fuel cooking or heating or have attached garages. To further compound the problem there is absolutely no ability to assess the actual risk from outside the premises and without special measuring apparatus it is difficult to determine risk and cause from inside the premises.

CO is dangerous in different ways based on the amount of CO exposure over a very long period of time is just as damaging as larger exposure over a short period of time.

**A. 2.0.** It is this standards recommendation that the occupants be asked to leave before the public fire service communications center is called by the supervising station. Certainly speaking to the premises and calling the public fire service communications center can happen simultaneously. CO presents unique circumstances where time is of the essence in saving lives by asking occupants to leave the premises.

**A.2.1.** The supervising station personnel ask these questions to ascertain the level of affect of CO expose to give this important information to the responders. This information should not be interpreted but recorded and passed on to the public fire service communications center.

**A.2.3.** The supervising station would call its predefined call list.

**A.3.0.** Any means allowed by the authority having jurisdiction meets the intent of this paragraph. For example, a Knox Box key lock system could be employed as well as a door releasing system tied to the alarm when a CO detector is in alarm. This is to allow the responders to gain easy and quick access to the premises while minimizing or eliminating damage to the structure.