

**MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Operational Guidelines**

Approved by: Chief Mark Rohlring  
Compliant with Milwaukee County Shared Services SOG #3.0

2019

**5.0 – CARBON (Carbon Monoxide)**

## PURPOSE

*Carbon monoxide* responses will generally be initiated for one of three reasons: callers are reporting that the CO detector is going off in their home or business, callers are reporting that an occupant or occupants are reporting symptoms associated with presumed CO poisoning, or a company's CO monitor alarms while working at another call type.

## SCOPE

Carbon Monoxide creates a very real hazard to citizens and responders alike when present in sufficient concentrations. Sources of CO in non-fire buildings include natural gas or oil furnaces, natural gas stoves and hot water heaters, natural gas clothes dryers, fireplaces, running automobiles in garages, kerosene or LP gas-type space heaters, or propane heaters. Patients displaying signs or symptoms of CO exposure are to be treated and transported as per MFD EMS Standard Operating Guidelines.

## GUIDELINE

1. Establish Command
2. Size up conditions on the exterior of the building
  - a. Attempt to gain a complete a 360° survey of the structure.
3. Position apparatus
  - a. Identify the presence and location of the nearest hydrant(s) and Fire Department Connection(s) (FDC)
4. Determine strategy & incident action plan
5. Initiate and maintain communications
  - a. Provide first in report
6. Attempt to gain access to the main point of entry and/or speak with any available building staff or fleeing occupants.
7. Implement incident action plan as appropriate to the investigation
  - a. Evacuate, assess, treat, and transport patients exhibiting or reporting signs and symptoms consistent with CO poisoning
  - b. Monitor the exterior and interior atmospheres (all areas) with the CO Detector
  - c. Determine the CO source and secure it
  - d. Ventilate the structure methodically until CO level is within safe limits
8. Provide follow up and progress reports as necessary
  - a. Request additional resources or other agencies (WE Energies Gas, Health Department) as needed