



**The New Jersey Poison Information & Education System**  
Serving New Jersey Since 1983

Designated regional poison center  
for New Jersey by New Jersey  
Department of Health and Senior  
Services and the American  
Association of Poison Control  
Centers

***IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE***

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***COLD WEATHER ALERT:***  
*Do Not Become a Carbon Monoxide Statistic*

**Newark** – Recently, 2 people living in the same household were admitted to a hospital in New Jersey for serious carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. It was later discovered that their exposure was caused by a faulty furnace.

The winter heating season has just begun and many people have not yet had their heating systems properly prepared for the season, thus placing themselves at risk for CO exposure and possible poisoning. The above family was lucky. Based upon statistics from 2004, over 17,000 calls were placed to US Poison Control Centers for CO exposures.

According to Dr. Bruce Ruck of NJPIES, “Carbon monoxide is a clear, colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. The symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are often nonspecific (*headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting* etc.). In severe poisonings a person may lose consciousness and death may occur.”

Dr. Ruck also strongly urges everyone to make sure they have an operational carbon monoxide detector in the home. If there is any concern of CO poisoning you and your family members must get out of the house and contact your heating contractor or local fire department immediately.

***Remember Help is Just a Phone Call Away!***

For more information or assistance contact your local poison control center.  
Calling **1-800-222-1222** will put you in touch with **YOUR** local poison center.

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