



NEWS RELEASE August 25th, 2021

On August 24th, 2021 the Municipality of Powassan Fire Department responded to call at a rural property in the municipality. The nature of the call was a Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarm going off in the house. Upon arrival, crews observed that the two occupants had vacated the house after hearing the alarm and called 911. Firefighters entered the house with detection equipment and immediately detected CO levels exceeding 30ppm throughout all 3 levels of the house. Even at a concentration as low as 35ppm, CO causes an increase in cardiac and respiratory complaints.

Crews shut of the gas supply to all fuel burning appliances including the furnace, water heater, and stove. They shut of the gas supply to the house and then ventilated the house until the CO concentration returned to a safe level. A technician was called in to determine the cause of the CO leak and fix the problem.

Chief Bill Cox of the Municipality of Powassan Fire Department says this a good reminder that working CO alarms save lives. Carbon Monoxide is a colourless, odourless, tasteless, toxic gas that enters the body through the lungs during the normal breathing process. It replaces oxygen in the blood and prevents the flow of oxygen to the heart, brain and other vital organs. In high concentrations, CO can render you unconscious in three breaths and result in death within 15 minutes.

In all houses containing a fuel burning appliance, fireplace or an attached garage, a CO alarm is required to be installed adjacent to each sleeping area in the house. For optimum protection, it is recommended that additional CO alarm(s) be installed in other levels and/or areas of the home that are in proximity to a CO source, subject to the distance limits provided in the product's instruction manual.

For more information on CO safety, please visit:

http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/FireMarshal/CarbonMonoxideAlarms/QuestionsandAnswers/OFM_COAlarms_QandA.html