



General Order Number 32

November 5, 2012

To Officers and Members

Johnson Creek Fire & EMS Department

Effective November 5, 2012

Safety of our personnel is always our first priority. Especially during the heating season, carbon monoxide (CO) is a real concern that we must address on every call to private residences. This is applicable to all fire and EMS related responses, therefore, use of a carbon monoxide sensor is paramount when there is cause to believe that residents have been exposed. These types of situations may manifest themselves with residents that have headaches, nausea, and even general weakness. In short, these people may exhibit flu-like symptoms.

Fire companies shall use their quad-gas detectors that monitor for CO and EMS companies should use their CO detectors for these types of incidents. Both monitors display CO readings and will alarm at certain levels. All personnel should remember that 35 parts-per-million (ppm) is the average limit for an 8 hour exposure according to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Above this level all personnel need to limit their time in the contaminated atmosphere, immediately evacuate all exposed people, and, if available, go on air with SCBA's (refer to General Order #28). Realize also that the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) have determined that 9 ppm is the maximum indoor limit for CO exposure in living areas. This is the level that residents may show symptoms and therefore should be evacuated. Reputable heating specialists should be notified by the resident for repairs. Keep in mind that 5 to 7 ppm of CO in a residence is considered normal.

This order will take effect and be in force on and after 0700 hours on the date indicated.

David F. Peterson

Fire Chief