



Carbon Monoxide

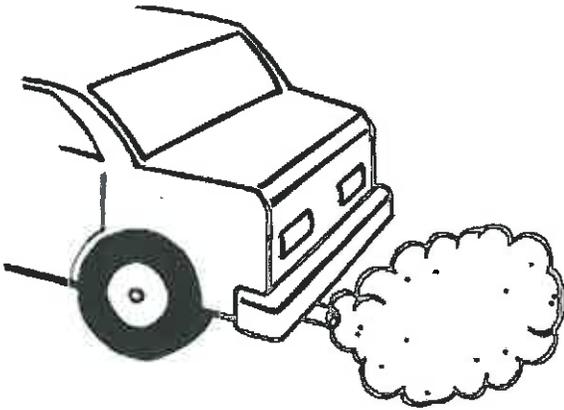


Photo Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



06-0006-11



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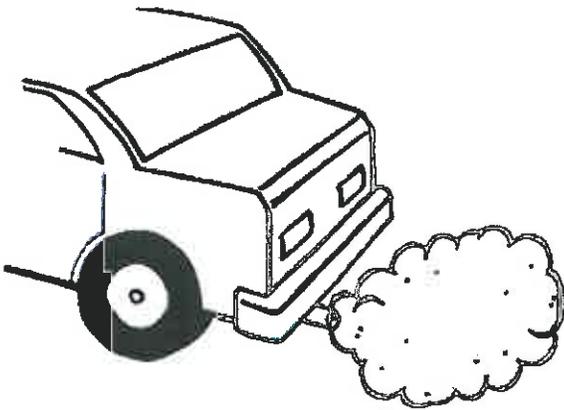


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Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas produced by the incomplete burning of carbon fuels. Because motor vehicle use is the biggest source of this pollutant in most areas, analysis of CO impacts is required for Colorado Department of Transportation highway projects in communities that have experienced violations of the national CO standards.

The highest concentrations of CO in the air normally occur during winter, when it is common for a layer of cold air to trap pollution close to the ground in a phenomenon called a thermal inversion.

Regardless of outdoor conditions, dangerous concentrations of CO can result indoors due to a faulty furnace and poor ventilation. CO detectors can be used to warn occupants of these conditions.



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