



CLAY FIRE

18355 Auten Road • South Bend, IN 46637 Telephone: (574) 272-2144
Fax: (574) 272-4043

For Immediate Release

Date: Wednesday, February 02, 2011

Subject: Carbon Monoxide incidents

Contact Person: Ron Melser, Deputy Fire Marshal

Clay Fire has seen an increase in the number of carbon monoxide incidents and detector activations due to snow accumulation and build-up. A common problem is high snow drifts that block furnace vents and air intakes in some homes, predominantly those that have newer high-efficiency furnaces. New, high efficiency furnaces vent out the side of a home close to the ground rather than up through the roof. These vents and air intakes must be kept clear of snow and debris. If they are blocked, the carbon monoxide will back up in the home. Some newer high efficiency furnaces have automatic shut-offs that shutdown the furnace when the vents are blocked, but not all of them. A few general rules you should follow:

- Keep a three-foot area clear around the vent and intake pipes of snow, shrubs, or other potential obstructions.
- After any snowfall it is important to inspect the area around the furnace and hot water heater vents to ensure that snow and ice are not blocking the safe operation of these fuel burning devices.
- Water Heaters and dryer vents should also be cleared of snow to prevent possible carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Do not run generators in the home, garage, or other enclosed spaces as carbon monoxide can rise to dangerous, if not fatal levels.
- If your CO alarm sounds, immediately evacuate to a safe location and call 9.1.1.