

# A common misconception about Carbon Monoxide

By JIM MAHONEY

Many Americans think that carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning occurs mostly during the winter months.

Northport Fire Marshal and Ex-Chief John McKenna provided Safety News with some timely information and advice. Chief McKenna points out that carbon monoxide poisoning can occur whenever you burn fuel. When there is fire, there is carbon monoxide.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas which is undetectable to human senses. As such, most people don't realize they are being exposed to CO. Exposure to this gas can cause the following symptoms:

headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness. When a person becomes aware of high levels of CO, he/she should get outside into fresh air and call the local fire department by dialing 9-1-1. The installation of CO detectors is a good first step in home safety. During the first seven months of 2014, the Northport Fire Department has responded to approximately two dozen CO alarms. Just recently a person experiencing high CO levels in the home had to be transported to Huntington Hospital.

Jimmy and Billy Reichert of Northport Hardware on Main Street are offering a special August discount on carbon monoxide detectors. Just mention this

Safety News article to qualify for the discount.

Some other safety tips include;

- Use portable generators outside and away from the home. Never use them inside.
- Use charcoal grills outside and away from the home and garage. Never use them inside.
- Never use a gas range or oven for home heating. Home heating systems including chimneys should be inspected and serviced annually by a trained service technician.
- Open fireplace dampers before lighting a fire and keep it open until the ashes cool.

## Meet Your Friend the Firefighter

The Northport Fire Department will hold its annual Meet Your Friend the Firefighter program on Saturday, September 27 from 12 noon to 2 pm at fire headquarters - 204 Main Street. This program is specially designed for children under the age of 6 years and their parents. Basic safety suggestions and procedures will be demonstrated. Children will be able to practice exiting from a simulated smokefilled bedroom in the event of a real fire in the house. They will be able to see the inside of an ambulance, witness a firefighter dressed in full turnout gear with an air tank and mask. Car seat emergency information decals will be available

to parents as well as information on safety helmets for bike riding, skating etc. There is no cost for this program. As a special treat, Sparky the Fire Dog will be on hand to greet the youngsters and their parents. Please try to join us with your young children on Saturday, September 27. For the children 6 years of age and older, members of this department will conduct their day long program at the local preschool and elementary schools during the month of October.

## Northport Fire Department's 125th Anniversary Parade

Plans for the 125th anniversary parade scheduled for Saturday, October 18 (rain date Saturday, October 25) are progressing very well. The line of march for the fire departments and their bands will be north on Laurel Avenue to Main Street and then west to the Village Park. After a brief ceremony, there will be a unique musical program presented by the bands that march in the parade. Refreshments and commemorative glasses will be available in the Village Park. The parade is scheduled to start promptly at 2 p.m. Special recognition will be given to those firefighters who have served the Northport community for over 50 years. More details to come in the next **Safety News** column.

When you go to purchase your CO detector, buy and install fresh batteries for your smoke detectors.