Carbon monoxide (CO) is known as the “Invisible Killer” because it is a poisonous gas that has no visible color, taste or odor. It poisons the body by removing oxygen in the blood stream, slowly suffocating you. It makes it hard to think clearly.

- Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include nausea, dizziness, headaches, tiredness and red cheeks

- Nicole’s Law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires that every building with fossil-fuel burning equipment have carbon monoxide detectors installed in every level of a home, including habitable portions of basements and attic, and within 10 feet of each sleeping area.

- If renting, Nicole’s Law requires landlords to install and maintain carbon monoxide detectors in every dwelling unit that has a source of carbon monoxide such as a natural gas kitchen stove.

- Sources of carbon monoxide in the home can include furnaces and water heaters, chimney and woodstoves, gas and oil fired space heaters, blocked furnace and dryer vents, car tailpipes blocked by snow, portable generators, running vehicles, and natural gas stoves.

A message from Environmental, Health and Safety, UMass Boston [www.umb.edu/ehs](http://www.umb.edu/ehs) and the MA Dept. of Fire Services.