

Guard against ...

Information which may save your life!

THE SILENT KILLER



Mary had a brush with the silent killer... and was able to tell us what happened to her!

>>> Read pages 2-3



Every year there are more than 1000 victims. Protect your family against CO poisoning!

>>> Find out all about the subject on page 4



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On this beautiful Sunday, the killer was waiting just behind the door...



COOL, KARIMI! IT'S SUNDAY.

MARY, REMEMBER THAT OUR PARENTS ARE EXPECTING US FOR LUNCH ...



OK, I'M GOING TO TAKE MY BATH.

PLEASE DON'T TAKE HOURS, DARLING...



11.20

MARY, HURRY UP, WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE!



11.25

MAR...

OH!

MARY!



AIR!



QUICK, CUT OFF THE GAS!



OH, DARLING! I'LL TAKE YOU OUT OF HERE, QUICK!

YOU DID ALL THE RIGHT THINGS, SIR. FIRST, THE WINDOW SHOULD BE OPENED, THEN THE GAS CUT OFF AND THE VICTIM REMOVED FROM THE ROOM.



THANKS FOR SAVING MY LIFE! BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND... IT HAPPENED SO FAST ...



I FELT VERY TIRED, THEN I BELIEVE I HAD VERTIGO...



CO IS A SILENT KILLER... ONE DOESN'T NOTICE IT AND IT HAS NO SMELL.



ALL COAL-, WOOD-, OIL- OR GAS-FIRED APPLIANCES CAN GENERATE CO.



THEREFORE, ALWAYS ENSURE THAT THE HOUSE IS WELL VENTILATED!



LISTEN CAREFULLY! IF YOU SUFFER FREQUENTLY FROM HEADACHES, NAUSEA OR VERTIGO, YOU SHOULD SUSPECT THE PRESENCE OF CO IN THE ROOM.

YOU WERE LUCKY!

UNDERSTOOD!

A few days later...

THE FLAME SHOULD ALWAYS BE BLUE. A YELLOW FLAME POINTS TO INCOMPLETE GAS COMBUSTION. THIS CAN BE DANGEROUS!



THERE YOU ARE! I HAVE SERVICED YOUR BOILER AND IT IS NOW WORKING PROPERLY AND EQUIPPED WITH A DIRECT VENT OUTSIDE.



TO ENSURE BETTER AIR CIRCULATION I HAVE INSTALLED A NON-BLOCKABLE GRID.



DONT FORGET, TO ENSURE A GOOD DRAUGHT YOU SHOULD HAVE YOU CHIMNEY CHECKED EVERY YEAR!



WE WON'T FORGET HIS ADVICE. OUR SAFETY IS AT STAKE!

I WAS SO AFRAID OF LOSING YOU, DARLING...

■ What is CO?

CO (carbon monoxide) is a gas that has no smell or taste, which can't be seen or felt, but is dangerous and one can die from its effects. Every year, more than 1,000 people in Belgium fall victim to CO poisoning.

All coal-, wood-, gas oil-, paraffin or gas-fired heating appliances can generate CO!

Therefore, the danger lurks in your home, too.



■ How can it be avoided?

ADEQUATE VENTILATION

- Is there a heating appliance or a boiler in the room? If so, install an adequate ventilation grid (150 cm²), or ensure that the room is always ventilated correctly.

CHECKING THE CHIMNEY

- To ensure a good draught, have the chimney checked every year!

GOOD AND PROPERLY SERVICED APPLIANCES

- Old appliances use up more fuel and can sometimes be dangerous!
- For a hand basin or a sink, use only a small (5-litre) boiler!
- Choose a heating appliance fitted with a spent gas evacuation duct.
- Have your appliances checked regularly by a specialist.



■ How can the danger of CO poisoning be detected?

IN HUMANS AND ANIMALS

- Headaches
- Vomiting
- Tiredness
- Fainting

IN THE HOME

- Presence of condensation on walls in the vicinity of a gas boiler
- Yellow flames instead of blue
- Abnormally high humidity

■ What should be done in the event of CO poisoning?

- Open all the doors and windows
- Switch off the appliance
- Has the victim lost consciousness? Dial 112.
- If the victim is conscious, remove them from the room
- Anti-poisoning Centre : 070 245 245

If you want additional copies of the booklet, you can order them by e-mail at infodoc@ibz.fgov.be or by fax on 02 557 35 22. The booklet is also available on the website www.besafe.be (heading 'Publications')