

North Shore Gas donates carbon monoxide detectors to Zion

On Feb. 9, North Shore Gas held a press conference to present 600 (200 per township) carbon monoxide (CO) detectors to the cities of Waukegan, Zion and North Chicago and Shields Townships. First Alert, through a partnership with North Shore Gas, matched the utility's donation of 300 CO detectors.

The CO give-away by North Shore Gas is an effort to promote carbon monoxide safety. Carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless and tasteless poison, can come from any inadequately burned and vented fuel sources, including water heaters, furnaces, ranges/stoves, clothes dryers, grills, fireplaces and portable generators.

"It's extremely vital that residents have working CO detectors in their homes," says Torrence Hinton, manager of Operations for North Shore Gas. "Carbon monoxide detectors can save lives and they are required by Illinois law."

Hinton also stressed the need for residents to ensure that their heating equipment is in top operating condition and the

importance of clearing the snow away from gas meters and regulators. "An improperly adjusted furnace or a blocked vent can cause CO to accumulate indoors," he says.

Prolonged exposure to CO fumes can lead to unconsciousness and even death. Early warning signs include headaches, dizziness, weakness, nausea and vomiting. If you encounter these danger signs or if your CO detector goes off, open windows and doors and evacuate everyone immediately. Call 911 from another location.

The utility company offers a few CO safety tips to customers:

- * Install CO detectors/alarms within 15 feet of each sleeping area.

- * Test CO detectors/alarms at least once a month; replace batteries at least twice a year and follow manufacturer's guidelines for the

installation and maintenance of CO detectors.

- * CO alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms. Know the difference between the sound of the smoke alarm and the CO alarm.



PHOTO TAKEN BY GIBBIE BUCHHOLZ FOR THE ZION-BENTON NEWS

Zion Mayor Lane Harrison; Andrea Danks, North Shore Gas; Zion Township Supervisor Cheri Ditzig; and Justin Stried, Zion Fire Rescue Department.

Detectors Available

For those who are unable to afford a detector, the donated Carbon Monoxide Detectors are available at the Zion Fire Station 1, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or visit cityofzion.com/fire and fill out the online request form. For additional information, you may also call 847-746-4040.

More CO tips as well as home safety tips can be found on at the utility's Web site at northshoregasdelivery.com. In addition, North Shore Gas customers are eligible for a discount to purchase a First Alert CO detector. Details about the discount are available on the Web site.