Beat the Beep

Replace Aging CO Alarms They Don't Last Forever

Carbon monoxide (CO) alarms have been required in nearly every residence since March of 2006. The life expectancy of carbon monoxide alarms is 5-7 years, depending on the alarm manufacturer. Many CO alarms installed after the state's CO law was passed are now reaching the end of their useful life and need to be replaced. No home appliance lasts forever.

The life of a CO alarm begins when it is first powered up. Most CO alarms have a date of manufacture stamped on them, which can be used as a guide if the activation date was not recorded.

To learn more about your CO alarm, contact your manufacturer. Two manufacturers of CO Alarms are Kidde at www.kidde.com and BRK/First Alert at www.firstalert.com.

Replace CO detectors every 5 - 7 years, depending on the model.

Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless killer. Protect yourself and your family with CO detectors.

Signs a CO Alarm Needs Replacing

One sign that a carbon monoxide alarm should be replaced is a chirping sound that does not stop until the unit is powered off. Another sign that a CO alarm should be replaced is that it makes the low battery signal even after brand new batteries are installed. Models with a digital read out will show an ERR or EO9 or END message.

Protect Yourself from Carbon Monoxide, the Invisible, Odorless Killer

The purpose of the ***Beat the Beep*** campaign is to alert residents that their CO alarms may be reaching the end of their lifecycles and should be replaced BEFORE the beeps indicating end of life. This also provides continuous protection against possible CO poisoning and reduces the number of false alarms to local fire departments and emergency service providers.

Many Lives Saved by "Nicole's Law"

Since Nicole's Law took effect in 2006 requiring CO alarms in nearly every Massachusetts residence, many people have been saved from CO poisoning. CO alarms notified them that something was wrong at the earliest possible stages of CO detection. There have still been deaths from CO poisoning, but in most cases those homes had no CO alarm.

Your safety depends on **working** CO detectors.

Replace Aging CO Alarms

First Responders Need to Know About 'Beat the Beep'

First responders should know that most CO alarms will be reaching this end of life stage soon and they should take all opportunities to educate residents to ***Beat the Beep***. Fire departments are often called to homes where the CO alarm is beeping. Teaching residents to replace the batteries *and* to replace entire alarms is critically important for residential safety.

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Guide for
Residents and
First Responders

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