



SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
Public Information Office

11/28/2012

Media Advisory

1500 Hrs

For Immediate Release PST
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415 –699-6150 (c)

TELL YOUR LANDLORD YOU NEED A CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR!

**BERNAL HEIGHTS SCARE IS WAKE-UP CALL TO LANDLORDS & RESIDENTS!
CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR REQUIREMENT BECOMES EFFECTIVE ON
JANUARY 1, 2013!
IT'S THE LAW!**

A potential tragedy at a Bernal Heights duplex that sent 14 people to the hospital is a critical reminder that carbon monoxide knows no boundaries in a multi-unit structure. The poisonous gas can spread to more units than one. Although the recent incident was not caused by Carbon Monoxide (CO), a CO tragedy could easily occur in a multi-unit family dwelling. With no detectors, one neighbor's bad appliance can cause tragedy to others without CO detectors.

The California Office of the State Fire Marshal cited a recent study that found nearly nine in 10 California households do NOT have a CO detector. Many consumers are likely unaware of the need to have their homes equipped, and many may need to remind their landlords to act.

All multi-family dwelling units, such as apartments, are required to have a carbon monoxide (CO) detector by January 1, 2013. Landlords are responsible for installation, so for tenants whose units do not have a CO detector, now is the time to follow up with landlords by requesting one. Failure to equip a property with CO detectors puts families in danger, and is a violation of State law that is punishable by a maximum fine of \$200 for each offense. (As of July 1, 2011, State law requires owners of single-family homes with attached garages or fossil fuel sources to install CO detectors.

Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that is produced from heaters, fireplaces, furnaces, and many types of appliances and cooking devices. The only way to detect the poisonous and potentially fatal gas is with a detector.

San Francisco Fire Marshal Thomas Harvey and Department of Building Inspection spokesperson, Bill Strawn, will hold a press conference on Thursday, November 29 at 10:00AM at Star of the Sea Cathedral located at 4420 Geary Blvd. in San Francisco to explain the details of multi-family requirements of California's carbon monoxide detector law.

First Alert has donated 250 carbon monoxide alarms to the San Francisco Fire Department to support this educational outreach. Learn more about California's CO alarm law at www.firstalert.com/california.

WHAT: PRESS CONFERENCE WITH SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29 AT 10:00 A.M. TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF THE NEW LAW

WHEN: Thursday, November 29, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Star of the Sea Cathedral
4350 Geary Boulevard

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