

# FOOD AND NUTRITION PROCEDURES

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# F10

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Subject: **CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR ALARM**

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that all safety precautions are in place and followed if a Carbon Monoxide Detector alarm sounds inside of a school kitchen.

## PROCEDURE

Upon activation of the Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detector, **never ignore the sound of the alarm.** The following actions must be immediately initiated.

- Food service manager/satellite assistant or designee shall quickly turn off cooking and serving line equipment, and the gas. They must immediately instruct all occupants in the kitchen and cafeteria area to evacuate the premises and go outdoors for fresh air away from the area.
- Food service manager/satellite assistant or designee shall immediately inform the principal or designee so they can initiate appropriate actions. If a school administrator is not readily available, call 911 to report the situation and Miami-Dade Schools Police at 305-995-COPS (2677). Inform the call taker that the kitchen and cafeteria have been evacuated because the Carbon Monoxide Alarm has activated.
- Food service manager/satellite assistant or designee must notify the food service supervisor of the situation.
- The first responders must be made aware if anyone is experiencing symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- The individuals involved in the incident are not to leave the campus until they are cleared by the Fire Department.
- Do not re-enter the premises until the emergency service responders have declared the facility safe.
- Do not initiate any cooking operation until emergency service responders and/or Maintenance have declared it is safe to use cooking equipment and approval has been given by the Food and Nutrition supervisor/administration.

## Important Information

- Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can be fatal.
- Carbon monoxide can build up indoors and poison people who breathe it.
- The most common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion.
- The hood system is required to be ON and properly working before turning on and using any cooking equipment.

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- If the hood system is not working properly, report the issue to the Department of Food and Nutrition. Do not initiate any cooking operation that requires the use of fuel burning equipment.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are not designed to detect smoke, fire, or any other lethal gases.

## Carbon Monoxide Alarm Features

The unit has 3 LED lights:

- A green LED will flash once every 30 seconds to indicate the alarm is operating properly when power is present.
- A red LED will pulse to indicate carbon monoxide has been detected until the device is reset or CO is eliminated.
- An amber LED will flash every second to signal alarm malfunction or low battery.

When the unit detects carbon monoxide, the alarm pattern will be as follows:

- Four (4) short beeps – followed by five (5) seconds of silence – followed by four (4) short beeps with a corresponding red LED flash.
- This is repeated for the first 4 to 5 minutes, after which it will produce a single 4 beep pattern once a minute for as long as dangerous conditions exist.

To test the alarm, press the Test/Reset button:

- If the unit is operating properly, you will hear 4 quick beeps – followed by 5 seconds of silence – followed by 4 quick beeps. The display will show three dash marks “---” and then three “888 eights”. The red LED will flash along with the beeps. Within several seconds the unit will return to monitor for CO.

*For Action By: Food Service Manager, Satellite Assistants*

*Refer Questions to: Department of Food and Nutrition*

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