

## **The “Silent Killer”**

### **Carbon Monoxide Detectors – It’s the New State Law**

The General Assembly passed Illinois Public Act 094-0741. Effective January 1, 2007, all homes must be equipped with Carbon Monoxide Detectors.

What this means for you as a resident is, as of January 1, 2007, every dwelling unit shall be equipped with at least one approved carbon monoxide alarm in operating condition within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping purposes. The carbon monoxide alarm may be combined with smoke detecting devices provided that the combined unit emits an alarm in a manner that clearly differentiates the hazard.

It is the responsibility of the owner of a structure to supply and install all required alarms. It is the tenant’s responsibility to test and to provide general maintenance for the alarms within the tenant’s dwelling unit of room unit, and to notify the owner or the authorized agent of the owner in writing of any deficiencies that the tenant cannot correct. The owner is responsible for providing one tenant per dwelling unit with written information regarding alarm testing and maintenance. The tenant is responsible for replacement of any required batteries in the carbon monoxide alarms in the tenant’s dwelling unit.

The carbon monoxide alarms required under this Act may be either battery powered, plug-in with battery back-up, or wired into the structure’s AC power line with secondary battery back-up.

The only residential units exempt from carbon monoxide detectors are 1) residential units in a building that does not rely on combustion of fossil fuel for heat, ventilation, or hot water, is not connected in any way to a garage, and is not sufficiently close to any ventilated source of carbon monoxide, as determined by the local building commissioner, to receive carbon monoxide from that source. 2) A residential unit that is not sufficiently close to any source of carbon monoxide so as to be at risk of receiving carbon monoxide from that source, as determined by the local building commissioner.

Willful failure to install or maintain in operating condition any carbon monoxide alarm required by this Act is a Class B misdemeanor. Tampering with, removing, destroying, disconnecting, or removing the batteries from any installed carbon monoxide alarm, except in the course of inspection, maintenance, or replacement of the alarm, in a Class A misdemeanor in the case of a first conviction and a Class 4 felony in the case of a second or subsequent conviction.

**Please remember, carbon monoxide detectors must be installed by January 1, 2007.**