

Winter 2010-2011

Dec Jan Feb



# The Dispatch

## Protecting Against CO

It's the holiday season and with the cold weather upon us there will inevitably be more fires in the fireplace and more baking. We will also be more apt to go out and warm up our cars; all of which can pose a threat for carbon monoxide poisoning. According to the *New York Times* the number of carbon monoxide related deaths and illnesses increases in winter as families turn up the heat in their homes and shut their windows.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas produced by burning any fuel. Some examples of fuel burning appliances that one might have in one's home are: furnaces, hot water heaters, portable generators and stoves. Carbon Monoxide is a gas that you can not smell, see, or taste so it is important to have a CO detector in your home to prevent serious illness or death.

The 2009 National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) recommends the installation of CO detection in houses and businesses. This standard "covers the selection, design, application, installation, location, performance, inspection, testing, and maintenance of carbon monoxide detection and warning equipment in buildings and structures."

Also, on July 28, 2010 the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1796 which is the Residential Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act. This bill requires that CO alarms "meet ANSI/UL Standard 2034 and CO detectors meet ANSI/UL 2075 in order to be available for sale in the U.S. These product

safety standards are a vital part of the U.S. conformity assessment program, which verifies that the products meet a given level of quality or safety and provide the user with explicit or implicit information about its characteristics, the consistency of those characteristics, and/or performance of the product."

Although this bill is not yet a law, Monitor Controls, Inc. has reviewed this bill as well as the 2009 NFPA and follows all procedures. It is strongly recommended that you do the same to ensure safety from Carbon Monoxide poisoning to you and your loved ones.

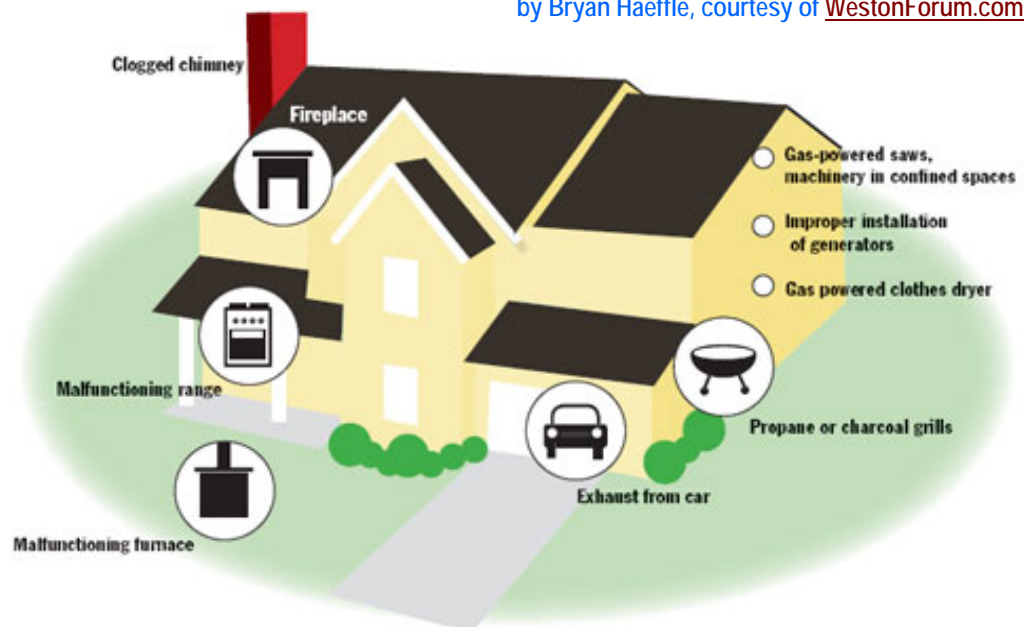
There are approximately 2,100 deaths every year in the U.S. and more than 10,000 carbon monoxide injuries annually. The symptoms include headache, dizziness, confusion, nausea, and faintness. The scary fact is that many of these symptoms are similar to food poisoning and the flu and are often overlooked. Don't let it get to this point! Be sure to have a CO detector installed in your home and protect yourself and your loved ones this holiday season.

~Source: NFPA 720 Standard for the Installation of CO Detection and Warning Equipment

~Source: System Sensor

Below is an illustration of a few different ways that Carbon Monoxide can enter your home completely unknown to you.

Sources of carbon monoxide problems. Illustration by Bryan Haeffle, courtesy of [WestonForum.com](http://WestonForum.com)



# 10 Things to know About Fire Alarm Monitoring

## 1) The Standard is referenced in the National Building Code and National Fire Code

The National Building Code and the National Fire Code requires that a fire signal receiving center and a fire protective signaling system at a protected property meet the requirements of CAN/ULC-S561, Installation and Services for Fire Signal Receiving Centres and Systems. In addition, the Standard for the installation of fire alarm systems—CAN/ULC-S524-06, Installation of Fire Alarm Systems—requires that the interconnection between a fire alarm system control unit and a fire signal receiving center comply with the same CAN/ULC-S561. These two Standards are not only separately referenced in the Code, but are integral to each other in that conformance to CAN/ULC-S561 is directly linked to CAN/ULC-S524.

## 2) The Standard covers more than signaling

In addition to signaling, the CAN/ULC-S561 Standard requires that fire signal receiving centers conform to specifics such as ratings of fire separations, exiting, and other construction and safety requirements as well as operating procedures, standby/back-up systems, signal receivers, automation systems, emergency lighting and basic fire protection.

## 3) Trained staff and installation/servicing requirements

The Standard defines the requirements for trained staff that handle operation of a fire signal receiving station. It also covers the installation and service of a fire protective signaling system at a protected property. It should be noted that subcontracting is not permitted under the ULC system certificate program.

## 4) Signal transmitting and receiving units must meet standards

The signal transmitting unit located at a monitored premises and signal receiving units located at a fire signal receiving center are required to comply with the requirements of CAN/ULC-S559, Equipment for Fire Signal Receiving Centres and Systems, or CAN/ULC-S527, Standard for Control Units for Fire Alarm System. Equipment and devices not Listed by a nationally accredited

certification body such as ULC do not meet the intent of the National Building Code.

## 5) Communication path systems are defined

Communication can come in the form of passive or active communication. Examples of passive systems are dual path systems and cellular back up an example of an active system is Internet Protocol (IP). Transmitting and receiving equipment are ULC Listed to work with both types of communication channels and is tested to determine if there is telephone line supervision between a protected property and a fire signal receiving center.

## 6) Two Systems for Fire protection signaling systems

It is sometimes assumed fire protection systems apply to only monitoring fire alarms. In fact, fire protective signaling systems are categorized in two separate systems:

- Fire alarm panel monitoring
- Standalone sprinkler alarm monitoring

## 7) What constitutes a compliant system

For a system to be considered compliant, it has to include a Listed, i.e., tested and certified by a nationally accredited certification body, signal transmitting unit utilizing an approved communication path transmitting signals to a Listed fire signal receiving center. Supervision is required from the connections in a fire alarm system control unit to a fire alarm transmitter communicating on an approved communication path (passive or active) through to a Listed fire signal receiving center.

## 8) Clarity on the disposition of signals

- Fire alarm signals to be transmitted to a fire signal receiving center within 60 seconds
- Fire signal receiving center personnel must contact the fire department within 30 seconds

Defining the transmission time provides much more clarity for code users compared to previous requirements.

## 9) Clearly defined periodic testing

All fire protective signaling systems are required to be tested annually with records

documenting the testing. These tests are required by CAN/ULC-S561 and are in addition to those required by CAN/ULC-S536, Standard for the Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems. Stand-alone sprinkler risers shall be tested bimonthly. For these systems to remain working at all times, regular maintenance and testing at a protected property is needed.

## 10) The assurance of a ULC certificate

Once the installer of the fire protective signaling system determines that fire protective signaling system has been installed in accordance with requirements of CAN/ULC-S561 the installer would request a ULC Certificate for the protected property, ULC issues a ULC certificate and this is displayed at a fire alarm monitoring panel. The certificate states that an installation, equipment and method of communication adhere to applicable ULC Standards. This certificate is the only proof that a building is being monitored in accordance with applicable ULC Standards.

In summary, a ULC protective signaling services certificate provides a code authority the necessary evidence that a complete system complies with the CAN/ULC-S561 Standard.



~Source: Underwriters Laboratories  
2010, Issue 2, pages 6-7

# Protecting Against Copper Theft

Protecting against thievery is becoming more and more difficult with new issues arising daily. The newest issue is copper thievery. The value for selling scrap copper is approximately \$3 per pound. Thieves are stealing the metal from any building that contains copper, even if it means risking their own safety. A large source of copper is wire. Stealing wire can be dangerous for the thieves and for the people who find the mess. People have reported receiving major burns, and in more serious cases, death can result. Even in less serious cases, power outages can occur for whole neighborhoods.



Although copper theft is common in vacant buildings, many thefts occur in places that are occupied. One incident involved thieves stealing copper from electrical pumps at a church. The damage can be quite costly and dangerous. To deter thieves, installing a video system may be immensely helpful. Video surveillance will allow you the peace of mind of knowing that your property is protected. In addition, make sure that your fire system has been inspected and is running smoothly, so that if an incident occurs, you and your building will be protected from unwanted damage.

~Source: *The Sentinel Echo*, November 8, 2010

~Image Source: [Plumbinghelp.ca](http://Plumbinghelp.ca)

# AT&T Back-Up Battery

As many of our customers may know, there have been problems with alarm systems and AT&T's U-Verse. A new report released by the Electronic Security Association (ESA) states that, "AT&T is now beginning to install the iNID (Intelligent Network Interface Device) at some homes which places most of the electronics necessary for U-Verse connectivity outside on the side of the house." This means that since "both Plain old Telephone Systems (POTS) and U-Verse Voice are sourced from the iNID, no special wiring is needed to connect a monitored home alarm system and enable it to seize the line." While this added feature should mean less trouble for monitored alarm users, it is still important to notify us when work is going to be performed at your location and that your phone service will be changing.

In addition, AT&T reports that it is important to have battery back-up. AT&T's website states that, "If you have AT&T U-Verse services (voice, high-speed internet, and/or TV), you must also have battery backup power for the Residential Gateway [which provides power for your AT&T U-Verse] for your AT&T U-Verse services to function during a power outage." It is recommended that if you lose power, you should not make unnecessary calls and should not use the internet. It is important to not over use the phone or internet services to help preserve the life of the battery in case of an emergency so that you or your alarm can call for help.

~Source: Electronic Security Association, Executive Summary and AT&T on the Web (<http://www.att.com/u-verse/explore/battery-backup.jsp>)



search ID: dem237



- It is vitally important that your alarm system be checked and tested annually! When you receive your friendly reminder in the mail please don't forget to give us a call and schedule your appointment.
- Update your zone list and key holder information at least once per year to ensure that the correct people are notified in case of an emergency.
- We now have the ability to email invoices and newsletters. If you haven't already, help the environment and contact our office to sign up today!

# Monitor Controls, Inc. CFO, Deborah Sokol, Nominated for CFO of the Year

2010 CFO OF THE YEAR

## Greater Hartford's CFOs: Versatility Pays Off

These are not easy times to be a chief financial officer

A sluggish economy has taken its toll on every facet of business endeavor, for big companies and small. Nonprofits have been especially hard hit. And ground zero for both the problems and the solutions is usually the CFO's desk.

In any given day, a CFO may be called on to deal with the increasing state and federal financial reporting requirements and shareowner driven demand for greater financial accountability. But increasingly a CFO's responsibilities are stretching into information technology and human resources, manufacturing and sales.

Never has an organization's finance chief been burdened with more responsibilities and expectations as he or she manages, advises and guides an organization's financial direction.

And never has the challenge been more invigorating for those who do the job well. In this week's issue, we celebrate six Greater Hartford CFOs and a host of finalists in the Hartford Business Journal's 2010 CFO of the Year awards. The CFOs are drawn from Connecticut's broad spectrum of industries and organizations, for-profit and non-profits alike. They're the top financial minds for their organizations.

In today's difficult economy, these CFOs, like their counterparts across the nation, are being called on like never before by their CEOs and boards of directors to make the hard calls. They're the ones identifying and recommending ways to pare costs, helping find new ways to increase efficiencies and productivity, identifying new revenue streams, tax savings and more. The bottom line is their chief focus and their jobs and those of their fellow employees depend on their getting it just right.

No industry has escaped the effect that increased financial scrutiny and pressures of a worsening economy have brought in altering the role of the CFO. Once mainly a behind the scenes numbers cruncher whose critical function was appreciated chiefly at the top of the house by senior management and boards of directors, now the CFO is a highly visible officer. He or she regularly interacts with every department in the organization to achieve cost savings, raise productivity and protect earnings. Excellent communications skills and creative thinking are just as necessary a part of a CFO's skill set, today, as an aptitude for numbers.

CFOs have become the chief business ethics enforcer for companies. They must possess a complete understanding of an organization's operations, think strategically, practice a thorough understanding of risk management, yet operate daily at a very granular level. In today's business environment, they must be technologically savvy and possess an ability to adapt quickly to changing conditions.

They possess special skills to help keep our organizations financially sound and operationally strong, and they seem to thrive under immense pressure that might make most of us weak in the knees.

Please join us in congratulating our winners and finalists. They're helping keep Greater Hartford's businesses strong — and that's good for all of us.

—Norm Bell, editor, Hartford Business Journal



Stories compiled by Kevin Moore, contributing editor



THANK YOU

To the following team members celebrating anniversaries with Monitor Controls, Inc. this quarter:

Barbara	12/4
Dan D.	12/5
Lew	12/18
Kathy	12/31
Dan H.	1/16
John Jr.	2/4
Sarah	2/11

John Jr.	40 years
Elaine	25 years
Kathy	16 years
Megan	6 years
Keith	2 years
Christina	3 years
Lew	2 years
Allyson	12 years
Dan D.	8 years
Denise	3 years

## Keeping up with your Account



It is now possible to receive text alerts to your cell phone on any/all activity on your account at no additional charge! Key holders can be notified as well. Contact our office to find out more today!

We Accept:



Est. 1970

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