

Carbon Monoxide Incidents in Schools by State*

STATE	CITY	DATE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT	CAUSE (IF KNOWN)	OTHER INFORMATION
AR	Bentonville	02/10/05	Junior high	1,000+ students evacuated due to CO leak, 51 taken to the hospital for evaluation and treatment	Boiler	
CA	Raisin City	1/16/13	Elementary	School evacuated due to suspect CO leak – tipped off by smoke coming from outside heater	Outside heater?	School has indicated it plans to install CO detectors in every classroom
CO	Aurora	10/12/09	High school	Students were sent home for the day after elevated CO levels discovered	Boiler	
CO	Rifle	09/01/11	Elementary	School evacuate, nearly 2 dozens student and teachers sick due to an “odor”		Inconclusive as to whether CO was culprit
CT ¹	Hartford	04/25/11	High school	CO detected in school as students arriving for classes; no injuries reported	Malfunctioning boiler	
CT	Milford	12/14/12	Middle school	4+ children, 1 adult taken to hospital after showing CO symptoms		
CT	Waterbury	01/04/11	Elementary	20 children (between ages of 8-11) hospitalized after falling ill to CO leak	Water heater access door broken	
CT	Waterford	03/28/12	Elementary	High CO levels		
FL	Miami	10/04/10	Elementary	11 people sent to hospital due to CO leak in cafeteria		
FL	Weston	06/10/09	Elementary	5 school employees and 2 firefighters hospitalized due to CO exposure	Propane-powered machine used for stripping wax floors	
GA	Atlanta	12/3/12	Elementary	43 students, 10 adults sent to hospital after exposure to CO – mild-to-moderate symptoms of CO poisoning; CO reading of 1,700 parts per million	Suspected faulty furnace	Noted that GA doesn't require CO detection in schools- TODAY Show story aired on 12/4/12
GA	Gainesville	03/09/06	Elementary	School was evacuated due to elevated CO levels	Heating and air unit?	
IL	Chicago	11/05/12	Elementary	25 people taken to area hospitals after a CO leak caused by faulty boiler – CO measured at 43 parts per million in certain areas	Faulty boiler	
IN	Ft. Branch	02/21/06	Dance school	CO levels measures 523 ppm on ground floor, 613 ppm in basement; two girls passed out	Furnace?	

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IA	Iowa City	09/23/10	Head start	Unsafe levels of CO detected at Head Start facility, classes canceled for day	Cleaning crew using unauthorized equipment in area not properly ventilated	CO alarms sounded, alerting to danger
KS	Dodge City	11/30/05	Elementary	Annex classroom evacuated when teacher and students noticed smell	Cracked heat exchanger	
KY	Louisville	02/22/10	Elementary	CO spread through ventilation system due to gas-powered tools – students evacuated, with 13 children and 1 teacher transported to area hospitals and 30 others evaluated at school	Gas-powered concrete saw used in boiler room	
LA	Lake Charles	10/02/10	Elementary	Building closed up due to smoke outside and low-lying fog – air quality was checked, and trace CO found. School was evacuated but students stayed on grounds. 20 individuals evaluated at local hospitals	Building closed b/c of smoke, fog	
ME	Bangor	11/02/10	Beauty school	Nearly 100 people evacuated after CO leak reported – 6 people transported to hospital for further evaluation	Faulty propane heater on roof	
MA	Chelmsford	12/29/05		Test results from 3 patients revealed traces of CO	Delivery vehicles idling outside school	
MA	Finchburg	01/11/07	Middle school	7 individuals were evaluated/hospitalized after elevated levels of CO detected	Boiler under repair	
MA	Lexington	02/17/05	High school	School was evacuated twice for CO before source(s) discovered	Hole in intake pipe, unlined chimney; also intake and exhaust pipes too close	
MA	Marshfield	03/01/12	High school	CO/other fumes drawn back into loading docks by wind – high levels of CO outside building, lower levels inside; no reported injuries	Water heater malfunction	
MA	Northboro	10/02/08	Elementary	Evacuation of school due to elevated CO in cafeteria area – no injuries	Boiler malfunction	Custodian alerted fire department after CO detector went off

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MD ^{II}	Baltimore	02/08/11 02/15/11	Elementary/Middle	School experienced two separate incidents a week apart – on 2/8, five adults and a child were briefly hospitalized; on 2/15, 6 students complained of illness and 40 other people possibly exposed to CO	2/8: Malfunctioning steam table 2/15: Convention and steam oven used to prepare food;	CO detectors subsequently installed in all Baltimore public schools
MD	Fredericksburg	02/03/12	Elementary	CO fumes from running vehicle circulated via HVAC; several teachers taken to hospital and diagnosed with CO poisoning	Diesel vehicle stuck in vicinity of individual room's HVAC system	
MI	Portage	02/24/10	High school	School undergoing renovation, parents complain that children have higher than normal levels of CO and suspect school construction		School officials installed CO detectors in classrooms, say no elevated levels detected
MI	Royal Oak	03/05/05	High school	High levels of CO were detected at the pool during swim lessons	Furnace	
MI	Thompsonville	05/04/07	Elementary	School closed after students fell ill – no CO source found. Incident potentially caused by sewer gases existing a rooftop vent that were sucked back into building by fresh air exchange	Sewer gas?	
MN	St. Paul	10/05/10	Elementary	School evacuated for about 1 hour due to elevated CO levels	Boilers	
MS	Marshall County	09/08/10		5 cafeteria workers sent to hospital w/CO ingestion	Ventilation system in kitchen	
MO	Ballwin	03/06/09	Elementary	School evacuated, no reported illnesses	Open air handler door on HVAC system	
MO	Cape Girardeau	04/30/12	Elementary	School was evacuated for the second time in a week due to buildup of CO in gym and cafeteria	Dirt-dobbers (insects) clogged up an air intake system	CO detector went off
MO	Raymore	1/14/13	Elementary	School evacuated after CO sensors went off – elevated CO levels in several classrooms; no knowledge of any students/staffers ill	Bad heat exchange	CO sensors went off
NH	Derry	02/18/10	Elementary	Dozens of students reported illness, school and adjacent church checked for CO levels (30 students and teachers taken to hospital, but no one admitted)	Ventilation system (3 rd floor)	

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NH	Lisbon	12/20/05		School evacuated twice before school and FD determined CO and other exhaust gases were being drawn into school through air intake system on roof (emissions from boiler's exhaust stack being pushed down to the roof by low-pressure weather systems)	Short exhaust?	
NH	Litchfield	11/09/06	High school	Students sent home after elevated CO levels were detected	Boiler smokestack and proximity to air intake unit	
NH	Meredith	03/16/12	High school	Exhaust drawn back into building; staff/students evacuated, a small # had slightly elevated CO levels (no one taken to hospital)	Misfiring boiler	CO detectors installed, but one at boiler couldn't detect b/c CO flowed up to roof and back into building
NH	Unity	01/29/94	Elementary	CO leak in school building sickened 25 children and several teachers	Furnace leak	
NH	Windsor	1/15/13	Nonprofit residential	8 students, 13 staff members evaluated for CO poisoning after CO detector sounded in one of dormitories (nonprofit residential school for kids with behavior/emotional challenges) – some sent to hospital for further evaluation		CO detector activated
NY	Bronx	04/07/10		Building that houses 4 public schools and 1,500 students evacuated after elevated levels of CO were detected		
NC	Columbus	10/21/08	High school	Faulty air flow created CO leak in an early college school – 32 people (27 students, 5 staff) were sent to the hospital	Insufficient air in boiler room	
NC	Matthews	05/13/10	Middle	Firefighters discovered high level of CO, school was cancelled due to suspected gas leak	No gas leak, but propane buffer to clean floors	CO detector activated and alerted to problem
NC	Raleigh	11/07/06	Elementary	4 teachers and 1 student taken to hospital after complaining of headaches, nausea; 500 students moved to gym in separate building	Debris in heating system block air intake system	
OH	Newark	03/02/04	K-8 (Private)	15 students and 3 staff members were sickened due to CO, some taken to hospital	Boiler/heating unit (?)	
OK	Madill	03/28/12	Elementary	School evacuated, 25 people transported to hospitals for evaluation	Gas leak	

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OK	Tulsa	05/04/09	Middle	Construction worker began experiencing CO poisoning symptoms – firefighters responded	Gas power washer in construction area without adequate ventilation	
PA	Derry Township	11/03/11	High school	1 teacher taken to hospital after becoming sick from construction fume	Propane heater in unsealed construction area	
PA	Glen Rock	09/05/12	Elementary	Nearly 40 students were sent home due to CO exposure	Diesel machine digging a trench – fumes seeped into building	School will be installing CO detectors
PA	Philadelphia	10/09/12	Elementary	Many of 577 students were evacuated, and 50 children and 5 adults were taken to local hospitals after CO fumes spread through school	Malfunctioning backup generator (after power outage)	
RI	Peace Dale	01/28/05	Elementary	520 students/teachers evacuated due to CO	Snow clogged heating exhaust vent	
TN	Cleveland	11/06/06	Elementary	All students evacuated when high levels of CO were detected in some classrooms		
TN	Nashville	1/14/13	Private	49 students brought into hospital after a CO leak at school – 40 admitted for 23 hours of oxygen treatment	Hole in heating unit	
TX	Dallas	01/06/12	High school	School evacuated – nearly a dozen people complaining of CO symptoms; no one sent to hospital	Improperly ventilated boiler	Building was ventilated before HAZMAT team could come get readings on CO levels
TX	Houston	11/04/11	High school	22 students taken to hospital with mysterious illness – at least one was diagnosed/treated for CO poisoning	Possible exposure from standing by buses or generators?	
TX	Pampa	10/07/09	High school	CO leak forced evaluation of students	Furnace	
UT	Heber	03/27/12	Elementary	Evacuation of school – 1 teacher, 17 students treated/released at local hospital	Construction crew using machinery by open door	CO alarm alerted to dangers
VT	Burlington	02/05/10		Elevated CO levels in boiler room	New boiler	CO alarm triggered
VT	Putney	01/06/11	Elementary/Middle	11 students, 1 adult treated for CO poisoning	Gas leak caused by furnace problem	
WI	Milwaukee	01/07/09	Elementary	Students evacuated due to CO – no students/staff members affected by fumes	Malfunctioning boiler	

* NEMA compiled this data using publicly available media reports but has not conducted any independent verification of the information to guarantee its accuracy.

ⁱ The State of Connecticut enacted legislation (HB 5326, Public Act No. 11-248) that requires all public and non-public schools to install CO detection and warning equipment. The law became effective on July 1, 2011.

ⁱⁱ The State of Maryland enacted legislation (2012 House Bill 2, Chapter 39, and 2012 Senate Bill 173, Chapter 38) to require CO detectors to be installed in newly constructed and substantially remodeled public schools.