

AVONDALE BOROUGH

WINTER NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

Borough of Avondale
Established 1894

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IDENTIFYING LEAD SERVICE LINES

Due to a new Department of Environmental Protection Rule, the Borough must inventory all lead service lines and connections in the Borough by October 16, 2024. To do this, representatives of the Borough must get into your basement to test your service line. If lead is identified, this does not mean you have lead in your water. Additionally, if lead is identified, the Borough will be seeking a grant to replace the line or connection at no cost to the resident or homeowner. This is the first of many reminders you will receive on this important issue.

TRASH RATE INCREASE

The rate for trash and recycling pickup will be going up effective with the first quarter 2024 billing. The new rate per quarter is \$72.25. Borough Council did not make this decision lightly and discussed it at length at no less than 5 Borough Council meetings. Trash rates have not been raised since 2007 and the rate the Borough pays for trash and recycling collection has continued to rise.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7 P.M. with a few exceptions. If you have anything you would like to discuss at the meeting, please call the Borough Office no later than the Friday before the meeting to be placed on the agenda.

WATER & SEWER EMERGENCY

If you have a water or sewer emergency call or text:
484-667-1171

Someone is on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

NO INCREASE FOR REAL ESTATE TAX

Borough Council adopted Resolution 2023-13 the Tax Levy Resolution on December 19, 2023. There will be no increase in real estate tax or earned income tax. Following are the current tax rates:

- General Purposes—3.55 mills
- Street Lighting—.45 mills
- Emergency Services—1 mill
- Earned Income Tax—1%

RENT OR LEASE ANY UNITS IN YOUR DWELLING?

If you rent or lease any units in your dwelling, a yearly inspection is required. You need to get an inspection every year OR if you change a tenant during that year. To ensure the health and safety of our residents, the Borough will soon begin contacting rental owners to make sure that all rental properties are listed and inspected. This is a requirement of all rental property owners. If you would like to schedule your yearly inspection prior to receiving your letter, please call the Borough office.

SELLING YOUR HOME ?

If you are selling your home, you will need an inspection to obtain an occupancy permit. This is required before you can go to settlement.

** Applications are available on the Borough website and can also be picked up in the Borough office **





FROM THE DESK OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR BILL SHORE:



Exposing an Invisible Killer

A Factsheet on the Dangers of Carbon Monoxide

Each year in America, unintentional carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning claims more than 400 lives and sends another 20,000 people to hospital emergency rooms for treatment.

The U. S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) would like you to know that there are simple steps you can take to protect yourself from deadly carbon monoxide fumes.

UNDERSTANDING THE RISK

WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless and toxic gas. Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, CO can kill you before you are aware it is in your home. At lower levels of exposure, CO causes mild effects that are often mistaken for the flu. These symptoms include headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea and fatigue. The effects of CO exposure can vary greatly from person to person depending on age, overall health and the concentration and length of exposure.

WHERE DOES CARBON MONOXIDE COME FROM?

CO gas can come from several sources: gas-fired appliances, charcoal grills, wood-burning furnaces or fireplaces and motor vehicles.

WHO IS AT RISK?

Everyone is at risk for CO poisoning. Medical experts believe that unborn babies, infants, children, senior citizens and people with heart or lung problems are at even greater risk for CO poisoning.

WHAT ACTIONS DO I TAKE IF MY CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM GOES OFF?

What you need to do if your carbon monoxide alarm goes off depends on whether anyone is feeling ill or not.

IF NO ONE IS FEELING ILL:

1. Silence the alarm.
2. Turn off all appliances and sources of combustion (i.e. furnace and fireplace).
3. Ventilate the house with fresh air by opening doors and windows.
4. Call a qualified professional to investigate the source of the possible CO buildup.

IF ILLNESS IS A FACTOR:

1. Evacuate all occupants immediately.
2. Determine how many occupants are ill and determine their symptoms.
3. Call your local emergency number and when relaying information to the dispatcher, include the number of people feeling ill.
4. Do not re-enter the home without the approval of a fire department representative.
5. Call a qualified professional to repair the source of the CO.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY FROM CO POISONING

- Install at least one carbon monoxide alarm with an audible warning signal evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), near the sleeping areas and outside individual bedrooms. Carbon monoxide alarms measure levels of CO over time and are designed

to sound an alarm before an average, healthy adult would experience symptoms. It is very possible that you may not be experiencing symptoms when you hear the alarm. This does not mean that CO is not present.

- Have a qualified professional check all fuel burning appliances, furnaces, venting and chimney systems at least once a year.
- Never use your range or oven to help heat your home and never use a charcoal grill or hibachi in your home or garage.
- Never keep a car running in a garage. Even if the garage doors are open, normal circulation will not provide enough fresh air to reliably prevent a dangerous buildup of CO.
- When purchasing an existing home, have a qualified technician evaluate the integrity of the heating and cooking systems, as well as the sealed spaces between the garage and house. The presence of a carbon monoxide alarm in your home can save your life in the event of CO buildup.

For more information contact:

The U. S. Fire Administration
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
or

Visit the USFA Web site:
www.usfa.fema.gov



Homeland Security



