

LCCC announces Cultural Opportunity Grants, grant-writing workshops

The Lane County Cultural Coalition (LCCC) offers Cultural Opportunity Grants to provide county recognition and support to significant cultural programs and projects, preserving and enhancing Lane

County's diverse arts, heritage, and humanities efforts. Cultural Opportunity Grants are available to for-profit and nonprofit organizations and individuals to support access, awareness, and education for programs

and projects related to arts, heritage and humanities.

Grant amounts range from \$500 to \$2,500.

For several years, LCCC has hosted several grant writing workshops around Lane County to assist first

time grant writers. These workshops are formatted to encourage individual artists as well as assist all grant seekers in their grant preparation.

A grant-writing workshop will take place Monday, Sept.

17, beginning at 2 p.m., at the Opal Center for Arts & Education, 513 E Main St, Cottage Grove.

LCCC is now accepting applications for grants to fund projects happening in 2019.

Applications must be delivered to by 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 15.

For more information about workshops, grant applications, and grant guidelines, visit the LCCC website at www.laneculture.net.

Seven years after state requires CO protection in homes, alarms are approaching expiration date

Thanks to The Lofgren and Zander Memorial Act of 2010 (House Bill 3450), Oregonians have been protected by the bill's expansion in the scope of carbon monoxide (CO) protection throughout the state. This groundbreaking bill phased in require-

ments for CO alarm installation in residential properties, beginning with rental properties in 2010, and expanding to new single- and multi-family dwellings, as well as existing dwellings upon sale or transfer, in 2011. Since then, Oregon has led the country in

protecting its residents from the dangers of this invisible, odorless and potentially fatal gas, with dozens of other states following suit.

However, alarms don't last forever, and seven years implementation of HB 3450 it's time to replace CO alarms as

they approach expiration.

Known as the "silent killer," CO is a colorless and odorless gas that is impossible to detect without a sensing device. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, CO poisoning is a leading cause of accidental

poisoning in the United States and is responsible for an average of 450 deaths each year.

Any fuel-burning appliance, including heaters, fireplaces, furnaces, appliances and cooking sources using coal, wood, or petroleum products, are all potential sources of CO. It's critical to have appliances inspected by certified licensed technicians, assure that loved ones are educated on the dangers of carbon monoxide, and develop a family escape plan in the event of a CO emergency.

CO poisoning can cause symptoms such as nausea, headaches, dizziness, chest pain and vomiting that mimic those of many other illnesses, making it difficult to diagnose. In severe poisoning cases, victims can experience disorientation, unconsciousness, long-term neurological disabilities, cardiorespiratory failure or death.

While alarm lifespans may vary by model and manufacturer, back in 2011, a properly maintained CO alarm had a lifespan of approximately five to seven years. Therefore, CO alarms installed when Oregon's CO law fully came into effect are likely now due for replacement.

In addition to replacing CO alarms as they reach expiration, here are some tips and tools for keeping yourself and loved ones safer from the dangers of carbon monoxide:

Important Safety Steps

- Install alarms. CO alarms are the only way to detect this poisonous gas. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends installing alarms on every level of the home and near each sleeping area for maximum protection. Also make sure the alarms are installed at least 15 feet away from sources of CO to reduce the possibility of nuisance alarms. It is also important to test alarms monthly and change batteries every six months, unless the alarm is powered by a sealed, 10-year battery.

- Test alarms regularly. All First Alert alarms are equipped with a test/silence button for easy testing.

- Never use generators indoors. In the case of a power outage, portable electric generators must be used outside only (at least 15 feet from your home). Never use them inside the home, in a garage or in any confined area that can allow CO to collect. And, be careful to follow operating instructions closely. Also, refrain from using charcoal grills, camp stoves and other similar devices indoors.

- Be mindful of the garage. Never leave a vehicle running inside an attached garage, even if the door is open, it is hazardous, as CO can leak into the home.

- Have fuel-burning appliances inspected regularly. Arrange for a professional inspection of all fuel-burning appliances (such as furnaces, stoves, fireplaces, clothes dryers, water heaters and space heaters) annually.

- Plan Your Escape -To develop an effective escape plan, walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Identify two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Practice your home emergency escape plan at least twice a year and make sure to plan a meeting spot. That way, if there is an emergency, everyone knows where to meet.

- Call 911. If an alarm sounds, leave the home immediately and move to fresh air. Then call 911 and do not go back into the home until the home is inspected and cleared.

For more information on fire and carbon monoxide safety, visit www.firstalert.com.

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