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# North County Fire Authority

Serving the Cities of Brisbane, Daly City and Pacifica

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: November 26, 2012**

#### **Installation of Carbon Monoxide Detectors in the Home**

As the winter weather approaches, the North County Fire Authority wants to remind everyone that California state law requires all single-family dwellings with an attached garage or fossil fuel source to install carbon monoxide detectors within the home.

Commonly referred to as the “silent killer” carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. At low levels of exposure you and your family can experience shortness of breath, mild nausea, and headaches. At moderate levels, symptoms become more severe including confusion and unconsciousness. The best way for homeowners to stay protected from CO is to have a carbon monoxide detector installed on every floor and outside each sleeping area of your home.

The California Air Resources Board has determined that 30-40 avoidable deaths, on average, occur in California each year due to unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning. Additionally, this is the cause of 175-700 “avoidable” emergency room visits and hospitalizations in California.

These devices must be installed, consistent with new construction standards or according to the approved instructions, in all existing single-family dwellings. All other dwelling units (i.e. apartments) must have proper carbon monoxide detectors no later than January 1, 2013. Additionally, these detectors are required to be installed when selling any dwelling unit made for human occupancy.

For more information please go [www.northcountyfire.org](http://www.northcountyfire.org) and click on the Smoke & CO Detector icon.