

Carbon Monoxide

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is difficult to detect in your home. It is invisible and has no smell or taste. It can cause toxic effects in humans by depriving the body of oxygen, and impairing thinking and reflexes. CO levels will rise in a home where an unflued gas heater is in use.

A poorly installed heater, or a heater in a room with a lack of fresh air, can cause excessive levels of CO, and can lead to CO poisoning. Many people can experience flu-like symptoms from moderate CO exposure, while at even lower levels of exposure susceptible people can also experience chest pain. Exposure to very high concentrations of CO can result in death.

Source: NSW Health Factsheet - Unflued Gas Heaters

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/environmental/gas_heaters_fs.html