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# PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Friday, November 13, 2015

### ***PFD & First Alert Partner to Educate Philadelphia on Dangers of Carbon Monoxide (CO) First Alert Donates CO Alarms to Help Cause***

**Philadelphia, PA:** Fire Commissioner Derrick J.V. Sawyer and Gigi Lubin, spokesperson for First Alert, will conduct a press event highlighting the dangers of Carbon Monoxide (CO). First Alert will also provide the Department with 324 CO alarms in anticipation of the winter season. The event will take place at 5226 Nelson St. on Monday, November 16, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. Neighbors have been invited to attend and those in need of these life saving alarms will be able to request free CO alarms.

As the winter season approaches and residents begin using their home heating systems or alternative heat sources, statistics show that the number of CO injuries and fatalities significantly increase nationwide. In Philadelphia alone, the PFD has responded to 340 CO incidents in 2015; of these incidents a total of 31 residents have been transported to area hospitals for evaluation. According to the Fire Marshal's Office, Philadelphia has not recorded any deaths caused by CO poisoning, however notes that CO poisoning is the number one cause of accidental poisoning in the United States.

Fire Commissioner Sawyer and Ms. Lubin will discuss the City of Philadelphia's CO alarm law and define the dangers of improperly using portable generators and heaters.

Known as the silent killer, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC Document #466) defines Carbon Monoxide (CO) as deadly, colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. It is produced by the incomplete burning of various fuels, including coal, wood, charcoal, oil, kerosene, propane, and natural gas. Products and equipment powered by internal combustion engines such as portable generators, cars, lawn mowers, and power washers also produce CO.

***Symptoms include: Nausea, headaches, dizziness, weakness, chest pain and vomiting. In more severe poisoning cases, people may experience disorientation or unconsciousness, or suffer long-term neurological disabilities, cardio respiratory failure or death.***

***Fire Commissioner Sawyer wishes to remind all that Fire is Everyone's Fight™***

***1 COMMUNITY***

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***2gether We Are Safer!***