Carbon monoxide safety

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless and odorless gas. It is produced from heating oil, diesel, propane, natural gas, kerosene, gasoline and even wood burning in your fireplace without enough oxygen.
Large amounts of CO can be very dangerous and even fatal from a clogged chimney, improper venting or a defective appliance. A very common source of CO comes from your own garage.
If your garage and house are connected by a door that does not have an automatic closer on it, you could accidently leave that door cracked while your car is running and all that exhaust gets pulled into the house.
If you see signs of excessive soot buildup around your fireplace, the smell of exhaust fumes, a high amount of humidity in your home or stuffy and smelly air, please have your heating equipment checked by a professional.
Believe it or not, the newer homes can suffer from CO poisoning as well because there are now fewer vents and tighter moisture and air barriers involved in their construction. Less ways for air and gases to escape means they can build up in your home.

CO poisoning symptoms can include:
Nausea and vomiting
Sleepiness and/or fainting
Persistent possibly severe headaches that clear up when you leave the home
Dizziness and blurry vision
Confusion along with disorientation

If you or your house members are experiencing any of the above symptoms, please leave your home immediately and seek medical help.

The following are easy things to do to help eliminate this deadly danger.
1. Install a CO detector in a hallway adjacent to your gas/propane appliances like water tanks, furnaces or stoves or in the same room as gas appliances like a utility room . It looks like a smoke detector and some brands combine the two functions in the same product.
2. Make sure you have plenty of fresh air moving when you burn your fireplace.
3. Never use your gas stove to heat your home.
4. Do a yearly service on your heating equipment. Have your chimney and flue pipes checked for buildup or blockages.