
**NEVADA COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



**CORONER'S DIRECTIVE
18
Effective Date 05/30/99**

SUBJECT

CARBON MONOXIDE

POLICY

To set a standard procedure for the handling of carbon monoxide deaths

PURPOSE

To provide the investigator with information surrounding death by carbon monoxide

CODE REFERENCE

CASE LAW

DEFINITIONS

PROCEDURE

- A. At the scene of any death where the possibility of carbon monoxide is present, the investigator should be certain all of the following points are covered in the investigation and report:
1. Vehicle
 - a. Location of vehicle;
 - b. License number;
 - c. Year and make of vehicle;
 - d. Was the key in the ignition;
 - e. Was the key turned off or on;
 - f. If off, who turned it off;
 - g. Was the vehicle found idling;
 - h. What, if anything, was holding down the accelerator;
 - i. Was any gas left in the vehicle if it was not running;
 - j. What type of hose was used;
 - k. Where was the hose connected and with what;

- l. How was the hose attached to the area where the body was found;
- m. If the hose is taped to or through a window, is the tape outside or inside;
- n. Are other doors or windows taped;
- o. Was the vehicle locked from the inside;
- p. Could the victim have taped the entrances and then entered the vehicle;
- q. Contents of the vehicle: check for drugs, alcohol and/or any paraphernalia;
- r. Check for a note.

*NOTE: When writing your report, keep in mind that carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas. Seeing or smelling "exhaust fumes" is not "seeing or smelling" carbon monoxide.

2. Body

- a. What color is the body;
- b. Body position: lividity in relationship to position.
- c. Condition;
- d. Trauma and/or injuries;
- e. Clothing.