



Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet

Andy Beshear, Governor

DJ Wasson, Secretary

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Team Kentucky Inspects 125 Buildings in Ongoing Carbon Monoxide Safety Initiative, 26 Repairs Made

FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 14, 2026) – As a part Building Safety Month, today Gov. Andy Beshear gave an update on a previously announced carbon monoxide safety initiative. Since launching the initiative in January, 125 buildings in 21 school districts have been inspected statewide. The inspections revealed 26 potential safety issues that were promptly corrected. Gov. Beshear also thanked the team of inspectors for their work keeping Kentuckians safe.

“Our kids, teachers and school staff deserve safe, healthy schools so they can focus on learning. That’s why we are taking steps to make sure buildings are free of carbon monoxide risks,” said **Gov. Beshear**. “Thank you to an outstanding team of state and local inspectors for their daily work to ensure that building in Kentucky is safe, affordable and resilient. We are going to keep building on this progress in the months to come as we expand our efforts to keep all of Kentucky safe.”

In ongoing efforts, Team Kentucky is partnering with local school district personnel and the Department of Education to visit schools throughout the state and conduct visual inspections of heating and ventilation systems.

Will Hodges, Superintendent of Green County Schools, thanked Team Kentucky for reducing carbon monoxide risks in Kentucky schools. “Our inspections were completed with no disruptions and gave us peace of mind that we are providing clean air for students and staff,” said Hodges.

The inspections include furnace rooms, HVAC systems, kitchen equipment and emergency monitoring devices to ensure systems and ventilation meet current safety standards. Inspections began in schools and will be followed by daycares and senior living facilities.

“These proactive safety measures reduce the risk of carbon monoxide leaks from systems malfunctioning or improper ventilation,” said **Public Protection Cabinet Secretary DJ Wasson**. “The issues found have mostly been easily fixable without disruption of the school day. These small fixes will stop larger problems down the road.”

Building Safety Month

Gov. Beshear also recognized state and local building, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical inspectors for their role in keeping Kentuckians safe. Inspectors are responsible for enforcing building codes and regulations. They also review building plans, issue permits, and conduct inspections of new and existing buildings.

“Building Safety Month reminds us why building codes exist, to protect people from fires, severe weather, and structural collapse,” said **Housing, Buildings and Construction Commissioner Max Fuller**. “State and local inspectors share the common goal of making sure that the standards set out in our building codes are followed. When your family enters a place of worship, a daycare facility, nursing home, or school, you can be assured that a state or local building inspector has examined the facility to maintain safety standards.

During Building Safety Month, Team Kentucky encourages everyone to review safety precautions and check your fuel-burning systems for carbon monoxide leaks.

- Install carbon monoxide detectors on each level of a building and near sleeping areas.
- Replace detector batteries twice a year; replace entire devices every 5–7 years.
- Have HVAC systems, chimneys, and vents inspected annually by qualified technicians.
- Never block ventilation openings or air returns.
- Do not use ovens, stovetops or grills to heat indoor spaces.
- Keep fuel-burning equipment (generators, space heaters) outdoors and at least 20 feet from buildings.

Know the symptoms of CO poisoning—headaches, fatigue, nausea, dizziness— and evacuate immediately if suspected.

For more information on building safety, carbon monoxide safety tips, or to report suspected carbon monoxide issues, visit the Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction website at [DHBC.ky.gov](https://www.dhbc.ky.gov).

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