

TOOL BOX TALK

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, toxic gas. It interferes with the oxygen-carrying capacity of blood. CO is not irritating when you breathe it so it can overcome people without warning. People can die from CO poisoning. **Examples include: using gasoline powered tools OR generators in spaces where there is inadequate ventilation or exhaust from vehicles that can enter sewers or excavations. Something as simple as using a demo saw in an excavation CAN affect the oxygen level. BE SMART. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ADEQUATE VENTILATION.**

Effects of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Severe carbon monoxide poisoning causes neurological damage, illness, coma and death

Symptoms of CO exposure

- Headaches, dizziness and drowsiness
- Nausea, vomiting, tightness across the chest

Preventing CO Exposure

- Do not use a gasoline (or other fuel) powered equipment indoors or in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces such as trenches, excavations and confined spaces **without adequate ventilation.**
- When using powered equipment outdoors position equipment so that exhaust will be directed away from work areas such as excavations, vaults, manholes, doors, windows or vents which could allow CO to enter and build up in those occupied spaces
- When using fuel powered space heaters and portable stoves ensure that they are in good working order to reduce CO buildup, and never use in enclosed spaces or indoors. **Proper ventilation is a must!**
- Consider using tools powered by electricity or compressed air, if available & when possible
- If you experience symptoms of CO poisoning get to fresh air right away and seek immediate medical attention
- **IF USING YOUR VEHICLE FOR BREAK WHILE THE ENGINE IS RUNNING, MAKE SURE YOUR EXHAUST IS CLEAR FROM ANY OBSTRUCTIONS TO PREVENT FUMES FROM ENTERING THE VEHICLE**

Some Sources of Exposure

- Portable generators
- Concrete cutting saws, compressors
- Gasoline powered pumps



Safety Takes Minutes, Accidents Take Lives

EVERYONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFETY...BE SMART...WORK SMART...BE SAFE...WORK SAFE.
YOUR FAMILY IS COUNTING ON YOU