

MAFES Dawg Tracks

February 6, 2017



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

Safety Tips:
Carbon Monoxide Safety

Each year 1,500 Americans die from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. About 900 of these deaths occur in the home. Most deaths could be prevented if folks were more aware of the dangers.

Carbon Monoxide Defined-

- ✓ Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can be fatal if inhaled.
- ✓ Common sources-
 - ~improperly maintained propane tanks and/or gasoline powered forklifts.
 - ~malfunctioning heaters.
 - ~pressure washers in confined areas.
- ✓ Carbon monoxide can build up to dangerous levels in cold storage buildings, shops, barns and even your home without you knowing it.
- ✓ That's why it is very important to keep equipment such as forklifts properly tuned and to never operate gasoline or propane-powered equipment in enclosed areas.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Symptoms-

- You can become overcome by CO without knowing it.
- Low levels of CO may result in headaches, fatigue and nausea.
- Other symptoms of CO poisoning are severe headaches, blurred vision, nausea, vomiting, confusion, disorientation, loss of muscle control, fatigue, dizziness, rapid heartbeat or pulse, tightening of the chest, fainting and loss of consciousness.

DO:

- ~Immediately leave the building and seek medical help if you suspect signs of CO poisoning.
- ~Know that CO strikes quickly.
- ~Get familiar with the symptoms of CO poisoning.

DON'T:

- ~Enter a building with potentially high levels of carbon monoxide without respirator protection.
- ~Run tractors or other motor vehicles indoors.
- ~Use charcoal grills or camp stoves outdoors.

Carbon Monoxide Home Problems-

- Dangerous levels of carbon monoxide can potentially build up at home the same as at work.
- A common source of CO in homes is the use of inappropriate or improperly installed heating devices.
- These devices include: Charcoal grills, gas barbecues, camp stoves or other heating devices that don't specifically say that they can be used indoors.
- Other indoor home appliances that may result in CO problems due to poor maintenance or broken parts include gas heaters, furnaces, gas stoves and wood stoves.
- It's important to keep all home appliances well-maintained and to only use camp stoves, gas barbecues and similar devices outdoors.

Other Carbon Monoxide (CO) Safety Tips-

- ✓ Never enter a building with high levels of CO without the proper respiratory protection such as a self-contained breathing apparatus or SCBA respirator.
- ✓ If you should experience any symptoms of possible CO poisoning inside of a building, then go outside and feel better. Do not assume that you're okay. Do not re-enter the building. Also, get a blood test.
- ✓ Know that the only way to check the amount of CO in a building is by checking the atmosphere with a CO detector.
- ✓ Know that you are risking your life by using such a device as a gas-powered pressure washer indoors.
- ✓ If you must operate such equipment as a propane-powered forklift indoors, make sure the building is adequately ventilated and that the forklift has been properly tuned.

Ted Gordon-Risk Mgmt. / Loss Control
MAFES/MSU-EXTENSION (662) 566-2201
Excerpts: www.gemplers.com
<http://masdonline.com>
10/24/2016

**AT WORK, AT HOME
LET SAFETY BE KNOWN**

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**K.I.S.S.
KEEP IT SAFE & SOUND**

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**SAFE MINDS + SAFE
ACTIONS = SAFE WORKERS**