Dangers of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

In August 2013, 16 people got sick from carbon monoxide while they were in a packing warehouse. One employee died and a second was airlifted to the nearest hospital. The fireman and policemen that came to aid also got sick because of the poisonous gas.

- **Carbon Monoxide (CO)** is a poisonous gas you can’t see, smell, or taste.
- **CO** poisoning can result from the burning of kerosene, propane, oil, coal, diesel, or gasoline inside buildings.
- **Sources** include gasoline powered engines (fork lifts), portable generators, pressure washers, wood burners etc.

![Photo courtesy of Gas Safe Register (UK): GasSafeRegister.co.uk](image)
Carbon Monoxide (CO) the SILENT KILLER!

Prevention Methods

- **Install** an effective ventilation system that will remove CO from work areas
- **Do not** use propane, diesel or gasoline-powered equipment indoors
- **Never** use generators indoors or in small enclosed spaces where CO can build up
- **Use** electric or battery powered equipment and tools indoors when possible
- **Install** CO detectors (check batteries every 6 months)
- **Educate** your workers on hazards and symptoms of CO poisoning and ways to prevent it

Need More Advice?

919-707-5900

Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch

NC Department of Health and Human Services - Division of Public Health - www.ncdhhs.gov - www.publichealth.nc.gov