



# MAFES Dawg Tracks

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Safety Tips: Carbon Monoxide Safety



## What is Carbon Monoxide-?

- Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, toxic gas that can be fatal if swallowed.
- It is produced by the incomplete combustion of solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels.
- Appliances fueled with gasoline, kerosene, oil or wood may produce CO.
- If any of these appliances mentioned are not installed, maintained and used properly, CO may accumulate to dangerous and even deadly levels in cars, homes, or any poorly ventilated areas.
- A good example of poor handling of potential CO producing gases would be using charcoal grills, kerosene heaters inside the house or running a car in the garage.

## Common Sources of Carbon Monoxide (CO) that use Wood or Fuel-

- Room Heaters - Fuel-powered forklifts
- Furnaces - Pressure washers
- Charcoal grills - Gas-powered tools
- Cooking ranges
- Water heaters
- Automobiles running in closed garages
- Fireplaces
- Portable generators
- Wood burning stoves

## Who is at Risk of CO Poisoning?

- ✓ Any person or animal that shares space with a device capable of generating CO.
- ✓ CO exposures affect unborn babies, infants, and people with anemia or a history of heart disease.

Breathing low levels of the chemical can cause fatigue and increase chest pain with in people with chronic heart disease. Each year in the United States 5,000 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms for CO poisoning.

According to studies, this number is underestimated because many people with CO symptoms mistake it for the flu and are misdiagnosed.

## Symptoms of CO Poisoning-

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

## Safety Tips for Prevention of CO Poisoning-

- Avoid using gas powered tools and farm equipment in enclosed buildings.
- Do not enter a building with high levels of carbon monoxide without the proper respiratory protection (a self-contained breathing apparatus or SCBSA respirator).
- If you feel the symptoms - get outside and feel better - don't assume that you are okay.
- Don't re-enter the building and get a blood test.
- The only way to know the levels of CO are to check the structure with a detector.
- If you have to use gas-powered tools in an enclosed building, make sure there is good ventilation.

**SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S  
\*\*\* RESPONSIBILITY \*\*\***

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Excerpts: [www.gempers.com](http://www.gempers.com)

[www.carbonmonoxidekills.com](http://www.carbonmonoxidekills.com)

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