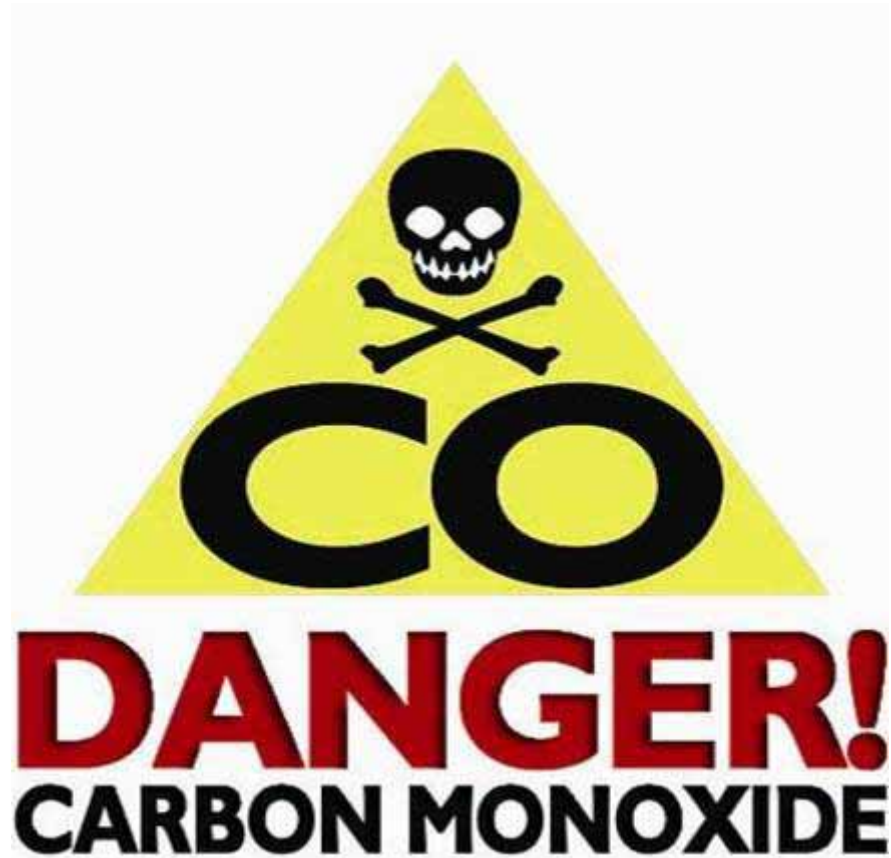


'The Undercover Killer'

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This is the silent killer



Why talk about Carbon Monoxide?

- **I can blame my Wife!!**
- **Recent fatal events that have raised the profile of carbon monoxide.**
- **Past & recent incidents of carbon monoxide poisoning and deaths.**
- **The impact of knowing someone who has lost a loved one to carbon monoxide poisoning**
- **A risk in my opinion often ignored both at home and in the workplace**
- **Reinforce the message around CO and remind people of the dangers**

Carbon Monoxide – The Facts

- Many are killed each year – **50 plus (In the home)**
- An estimated 30,000 homes in the U.K. have (CO) issues
- Many unknowingly suffer ill health from (CO) – **Between 1500 - 4000 approximately each year will present at hospital each year.**
- (CO) has the following properties:-
 - Invisible – **You can't see it**
 - Odourless – **You can't smell it**
 - Tasteless – **You can't taste it**
 - (CO) is **an extremely toxic gas**

Where is (CO) produced?

- Produced by appliances and vehicles burning fuels to include:-
- Coal – Homes with open coal fires
- Oil – Homes and business using oil to fuel heating systems
- Natural bottled gases – LPG/ Butane – Many factories
- Paraffin – Some homes, some places of work
- Wood – Many homes with open fires. Woodworkers – Wood burners.
- Petrol – Motor garages running engines
- Diesel – Motor garages, workshops to include diesel generators & diesel & LPG powered fork lifts
- Charcoal – Barbecues (including disposables) – Used at home and for recreation

Affects of (CO) on the body

- (CO) is absorbed by the bodies red blood cells in the lungs in preference to Oxygen
- This results in rapid damage to the heart and brain from oxygen starvation.
- High levels of (CO) exposure can result in **DEATH**



Recent high profile (CO) fatality – Shropshire – May 2012

- **Hannah Thomas Jones – Aged 14 died from (CO) poisoning**
- **A barbecue tray had been taken into the tent to keep warm.**
- **Whilst considered to have been extinguished (CO) gases were still being given off**
- **BBC One Show – Mid July 2012 demonstrated that 3 minutes in a sealed tent can raise (CO) level to 300ppm**



Father & Son killed by (CO) at Tewksbury Rugby Club - 2007

- Devastating floods of 2007 saw the basement of the rugby club flooded.
- Bram Lane (64) & his Son Chris (27) were both overcome by (CO) fumes
- They attempted to pump water from a basement/cellar area (Confined Space) whilst running a diesel generator



What can you do to reduce (CO) potential?

- Ensure all gas appliances are regularly serviced – Gas Safe accredited engineers
- Ensure that all open fire chimneys are regularly swept
- Fit an **AUDIBLE** Carbon Monoxide alarm in **EVERY** room where a fuel burning appliance is present.
- Ensure such alarms are regularly tested
- Change alarms when the due safety date is approaching

(CO) within the workplace

- In my opinion the hazard is often ignored
- I rarely if ever see a risk assessment highlighting (CO)!!!
- One that home owners, business owners and health & safety consultants in my opinion need to seriously consider.
- (CO) Incident March 2012 – Cornish food firm –Riviera Foods, Connor Downs, Cornwall involving fork lift LPG gas fuelled equipment. Generated (CO) exposure with factory evacuated – LPG truck



Sources of (CO) Information

- **NHS Website:**
- <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Carbon-monoxide-poisoning/Pages/Introduction.aspx>
- **HSE Website (Videos)**
- <http://www.hse.gov.uk/gas/domestic/co.htm>
- **CO- Awareness website:**
- <http://www.covictim.org/>
- **AND FINALLY - Christmas is coming – Stuck for a present?? Not the most exciting – BUT IT COULD SAVE SOMEONE'S LIFE**



Comments/ Questions

Thank You For listening

