Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous, colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas. CO can be found in areas where workers may be burning common materials such as wood, coal, or oil and using fuels such as gasoline or kerosene.

**OSHA Permissible Exposure Limits for Carbon Monoxide** The OSHA PEL is 50 parts per million (ppm). OSHA standards prohibit worker exposure to more than 50 parts of the gas per million parts of air averaged during an 8-hour time period.

- Carbon monoxide (CO) is a toxic gas because it damages the blood's ability to carry oxygen throughout the body.
- CO is non-irritating and can overcome a worker without warning.
- Workers may not realize they are being exposed to a high level of CO in the air they are breathing.
- According to OSHA's <u>Quick Card on Carbon Monoxide Poisoning</u>:
  "Many people die from CO poisoning, usually while using gasoline powered tools and generators in buildings or semi-enclosed spaces without adequate ventilation."



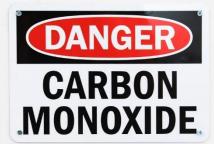
Gasoline generator warning sign reads: Exhaust contains poisonous carbon monoxide gas that can cause unconsciousness or DEATH. Operate in well ventilated outdoor areas... (\*4)



Gasoline powered forklift used indoors. (\*5)

## **AVOID DANGEROUS EXPOSURE TO CARBON MONOXIDE:**

- Follow all instructions and warnings for gasoline, diesel, and kerosene powered equipment and tools.
- Use tools powered by electricity or compressed air in enclosed areas whenever possible.
- Equipment such as gasoline powered forklifts or even propane radiant heaters used indoors can also be a source of carbon monoxide (CO).
- Open windows and doors in enclosed spaces to avoid CO buildup.
- Even working outdoors with gas powered equipment such as leafblowers, powered trowels, and similar tools could expose you to CO dangers after a prolonged use.
- Leave the area and tell your supervisor immediately if you feel dizzy, drowsy, or are experiencing nausea!



(\*1)

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## PHOTO ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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