



Minnesota Electrical Association

Electrical Toolbox Talks

Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless, colorless, gas.

Source:

By-product of incomplete combustion from burning fuels. For example: fuels used in cars, trucks, small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, furnaces or gas fireplaces.

Symptoms:

- lightheaded
- dizzy
- nauseous
- headache
- unconscious
- chest pain
- DEATH

Chemical asphyxiant:

Deprives the brain of oxygen. When you breathe in carbon monoxide, it will replace the oxygen in your red blood cell and prevent your blood from carrying the oxygen to the cells necessary to live.

Flammable range: 12.5%-74%

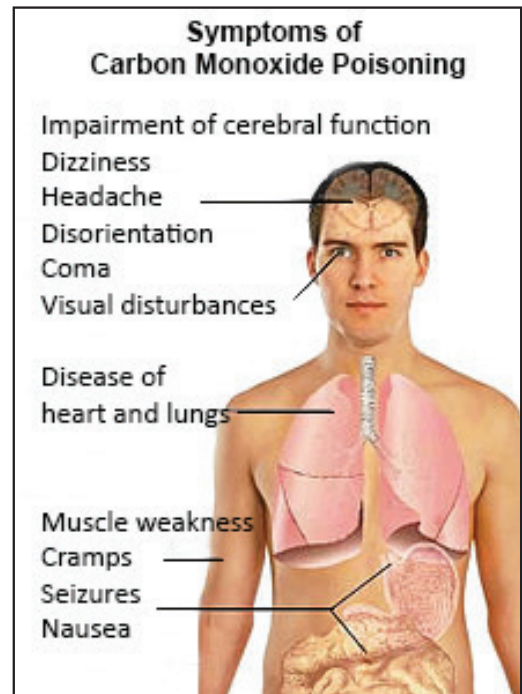
Vapor density: Weighs about the same as air.
Carbon monoxide = 0.97, and air = 1.0. Will travel wherever the wind/current takes it.

OSHA permissible exposure limit (8-hour exposure):

NIOSH recommended exposure level (REL) is less than 35 ppm over 8 hours. OSHA permissible exposure level (PEL) is 50 ppm over 8 hours. Any enclosed space that has over 200ppm over 15 minutes requires vacating the space.

Control:

Provide adequate ventilation, Open doors and enclosed spaces at least once every hour to allow for air flow to enter the room. **IMMEDIATELY MOVE AFFECTED PERSONS TO FRESH AIR AND CALL FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES IF SYMPTOMS ARE SEVERE.**



https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_General_Facts/carbonmonoxide-factsheet.pdf