

Protect Yourself! You may be exposed to:

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, toxic gas which interferes with the oxygen-carrying capacity of blood. CO is non-irritating and can overcome persons without warning. Many people die from CO poisoning, usually while using gasoline powered tools and generators in buildings or semi-enclosed spaces without adequate ventilation.

Effects of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

- Severe carbon monoxide poisoning causes neurological damage, illness, coma and death.

Symptoms of CO exposure

- Headaches, dizziness and drowsiness.
- Nausea, vomiting, and tightness across the chest.

Some Sources of Exposure

- Portable generators/generators in buildings.
- Concrete cutting saws, compressors.
- Gasoline powered pressure washers.
- Power trowels, floor buffers, space heaters.
- Welding, gasoline powered pumps.



Preventing CO Exposure

- Never use a generator or gas powered pressure washer indoors or in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces such as garages, crawl spaces, and basements. Opening windows and doors in an enclosed space may prevent CO buildup.
- Make sure the generator has 3-4 feet of clear space on all sides and above it to ensure adequate ventilation.
- Make sure natural gas and propane supply lines to home have been properly secured if applicable.
- Do not use a generator outdoors if placed near doors, windows or vents which could allow CO to enter and build up in occupied spaces.
- When using space heaters and stoves ensure that they are in good working order to reduce CO buildup, and never use in enclosed spaces or indoors.

- If you experience symptoms of CO poisoning get to fresh air right away and seek immediate medical attention.

This is one in a series of Volunteer Safety Information Fact Sheets highlighting Samaritan's Purse North American Ministries programs, policies, or standards.

www.spvolunteernetwork.org

828-262-1980

disasterrelief@samaritan.org