



What You Should Know About Carbon Monoxide

What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a deadly gas you can't see, smell or taste. CO can come from anything that burns a carbon-based fuel (gasoline, propane, charcoal, oil, etc.) so it can be created by engines, gas generators, cooking ranges, heaters and the like.

Why Is It So Dangerous?

CO comes in through your lungs and cuts off the oxygen supply to your body, causing death in minutes. Be alert! CO is a silent killer and can be found even in open deck areas.

See pictograms below.

How to Protect Others and Yourself

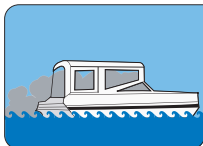
- Keep fresh air circulating through the boat at all times.
- Run exhaust blowers whenever you use the generator.
- Never sit, "teak surf," or hang on the back deck or swim platform while the engines or generators are running or the boat is under way.
- Don't go under swim platforms where there are exhaust outlets unless the area has been properly aired out.
- CO **can** be present without the smell of exhaust fumes, but if you smell exhaust fumes, CO **is** present. When you smell exhaust fumes, get fresh air moving through the area **right away**.
- Use a marine-grade CO detector and check its batteries before every trip. Do not ignore any alarm.



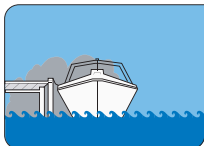
CO Checklist

- Make sure you know where your boat's CO exhausts are located.
- Explain the symptoms of CO poisoning to all of your guests and show them where CO may gather.
- Be aware that CO can build up when:
 - two boats are tied to each other;
 - you are docked alongside a seawall;
 - your load causes the bow to ride high; or
 - a fuel-burning appliance or engine is running while your boat is not moving.
- Listen for any change in exhaust sound. It may mean your exhaust systems are not working as they should.
- Test your CO alarm(s) regularly.

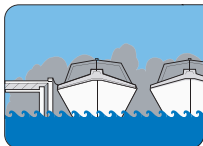
Canvas enclosures and cabin spaces



Blocked exhaust outlets



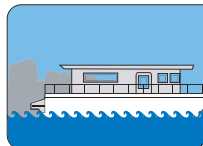
Fumes from nearby boats



"Station wagon" effect or backdrafting at low speeds



Swim platforms



* Early symptoms of CO poisoning include itchy eyes, headache, nausea, and feeling weak and/or dizzy. It is easy to think that people with CO poisoning are simply seasick, drunk or suffering from the flu. That is why they may not get the medical help they need.

