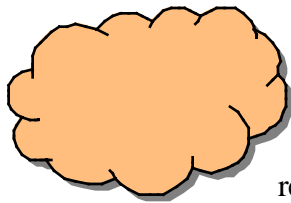


# The Wrinkle

## CARBON MONOXIDE AWARENESS



Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that can also be deadly. CO results from the

incomplete burning of any material containing carbon---gasoline, natural gas, oil, propane, coal or wood. In the workplace, one of the most common sources of CO is internal combustion engines, in particular, propane-powered fork trucks. After a recent incident in which thirteen Massachusetts workers suffered from CO poisoning, OSHA has issued a carbon monoxide awareness alert.

Carbon monoxide from the exhaust of propane-powered fork trucks can build up to dangerous levels in enclosed spaces. The symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headaches, nausea, dizziness, vomiting, shortness of breath and loss of consciousness.

What steps can you take to reduce the hazards of CO exposure?

## DFA Employee Safety Newsletter

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### *Carbon Monoxide Awareness*

1. Ensuring that equipment powered by fossil fuels is in proper working order will minimize CO levels.
2. Providing adequate ventilation in the workplace is an obvious solution, but cold weather can make that difficult. The danger of CO exposure increases during the winter months simply because normal sources of workplace ventilation---windows, doors, vents, bays---tend to be closed or sealed to help conserve heat.
3. Where appropriate ventilation is unavailable, other controls, such as replacing gas-powered vehicles with electric-powered models, should be implemented.

### QUESTIONS?

Call your supervisor or Tom Vogel in the Sacramento office.

First three right answers (If you haven't won on the last 90 days) get a pair of movie tickets to UA cinemas and a DFA mug. Send answers to [thomasv@dfaofca.com](mailto:thomasv@dfaofca.com) or 916-561-5900 X104

Q: According to the DFA Safety manual, "major portions of accidents" are caused by what?

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