

Carbon Monoxide – The Silent Killer

On March 26th we had a Serious Near Miss. During the morning tailgate meeting the supervisor's four headed monitor alarmed. Carbon Monoxide was suspected with a gas generator giving off high levels of carbon monoxide within the boundary of a Safety Shower unit.

A portable generator was being used to power the unit. To avoid lifting it every day, from the ground to storage, a platform was built on the hitch to mount it temporarily. The generator had been placed with the exhaust pointed towards the trailer wall. The position of the trailer and the wind direction helped direct the exhaust into the trailer.



Figure 1
Generator repositioned

To recertify this problem, the generator was repositioned and turned around, which has the exhaust blowing away from the trailer.

When spotting equipment or parking vehicles, the position of buildings and wind direction must always be considered to prevent similar outcomes.

Could your home have carbon monoxide?

- The flame color of your appliances should be blue and not orange.
- If spending time away from your home makes you feel better, you may have CO in your home.
- Check your Flue. It should be free from obstruction, allowing air to flow freely.
- Do you suffer from unexplained illnesses, Fatigue, Upset stomach, Dizziness, Headaches?
- Get a Carbon Monoxide Detector.