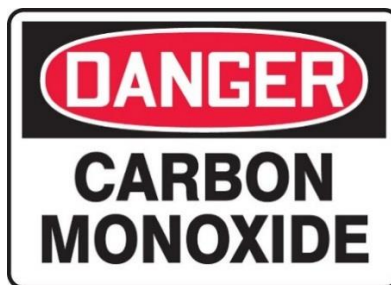


gbca **SAFETY** TOOLBOX TALKS



Space Heaters and Carbon Monoxide

Construction sites regularly use portable space heaters of varying sizes to keep workers warm. Some of these are placed in large, open spaces, but space heaters are also used in smaller, enclosed spaces. In addition to space heaters being a fire hazard, they are also a hazard because of carbon monoxide emissions.

Many portable heaters are fueled by propane, natural gas, or kerosene, all of which can emit carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a clear, colorless gas that you can't smell or taste.

CO Poisoning

The body absorbs CO 200 times faster than oxygen. CO poisoning occurs when a victim cannot take in enough oxygen because the body is absorbing more CO, effectively asphyxiating on CO.

Recognizing CO Poisoning:

- The first signs of CO poisoning are headache, fatigue, and dizziness.
- Continued exposure can lead to loss of consciousness, arrested breathing, heart failure, and death.
- Seek fresh air immediately if you feel these symptoms while working in a space with a space heater.

Safety tips for portable heaters:

- Ensure that the room/space is well-ventilated and has access to fresh air.
- Only workers who've been properly trained should operate a heater.
- The cylinder connected to a heater should be at least 10 feet away from the unit.
- Keep the flame end of the heater pointed away from the cylinder and away from flammable materials. Heat from a burner can ignite materials well past the burner's end.
- Make sure flammable, liquid-fired heaters are equipped with a primary safety control to shut off fuel flow in case the light or flame goes out.
- Secure the fuel tank in an upright position.