

# CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) SAFETY

Carbon monoxide (CO) can build up quickly and without warning, especially in winter when ventilation is limited. Proper equipment, good airflow and awareness are essential to keeping everyone safe on cold weather job sites.

CO is colourless, odourless and deadly!

## WINTER CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

- CO DETECTORS
- TEMPORARY HEATERS
- VEHICLES, GENERATORS AND EQUIPMENT
- VENTILATION / CO POISONING



**BC Forest Safety**

Safety is good business

# WINTER CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) SAFETY



## CO DETECTORS ON WINTER JOB SITES

- Install carbon monoxide detectors in trailers, enclosed work areas, temporary structures and mechanical rooms when using fuel-fired heaters
- Test detectors regularly, especially after extreme cold
- Never disable or remove CO alarms

## SAFE USE OF TEMPORARY HEATERS

- Only use heaters approved for indoor or enclosed spaces
- NEVER use propane, gasoline or diesel heaters indoors unless they are specifically designed for that purpose
- Keep heaters properly vented and away from flammable materials
- Shut heaters down immediately if ventilation becomes compromised

## VEHICLES, GENERATORS, AND EQUIPMENT INSPECTION & MAINTENANCE

- Never run vehicles, forklifts or generators inside buildings, inside trailers or near doors, windows or air intakes
- When warming up vehicles or equipment, avoid excessive idling
- Make sure exhaust systems are in good condition and clear of snow or ice
- Inspect heating equipment at the start of winter and throughout the season
- Confirm exhaust systems are intact and not cracked or leaking
- Only qualified personnel should service or adjust heaters

## VENTILATION IS CRITICAL IN COLD WEATHER

- Even in freezing temperatures, fresh air is essential
- Do not completely seal work areas
- Watch for snow or ice blocking vents, exhaust pipes and air intakes
- Increase ventilation whenever fuel-burning equipment is in use

## RECOGNIZE CO POISONING SYMPTOMS

Symptoms can easily be mistaken for illness or fatigue. Watch for:

- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Shortness of breath
- Confusion or drowsiness

## ⚠ IF SYMPTOMS OCCUR

- Stop work immediately
- Move to fresh air
- Call emergency services
- Notify your supervisor

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