



CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING – THE SILENT KILLER



**AVOID THE DANGERS OF
BEING POISONED BY
CARBON MONOXIDE**



**CREATING A SAFE BOATING
CULTURE 365 DAYS A YEAR**

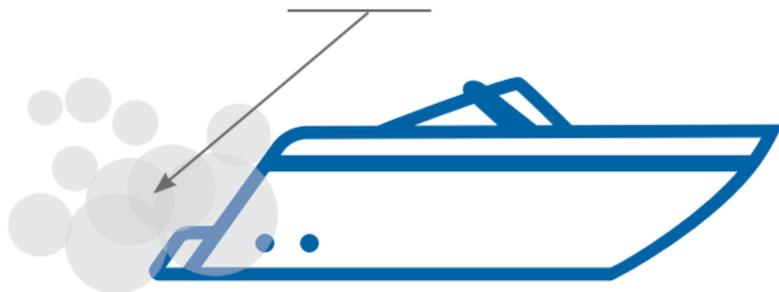
The focus of **Boat Live 365**[®] is on key areas of interest, determined by the U.S. Coast Guard, to help lower the rate of boating accidents, incidents and fatalities nationwide. This pamphlet focuses on one of those areas.

COLORLESS, ORDERLESS, TASTELESS AND DEADLY



In minutes, you could be overcome by carbon monoxide (CO) poisonous gas. This gas is generated by boat engines, cabin heaters, generators, and galley stoves. The most prevalent source of CO is exhaust from engines and generators. Even a small amount of this gas is extremely toxic in a short amount of time and deadly over a long period of time.

CO is silent, largely invisible, and likes to hang around on a calm day. **Learn how to spot this foe and avoid its “kill zone.”**



SYMPTOMS

Don't brush off these signs assuming it may be seasickness or alcohol intoxication – investigate further.

- Feel nausea, weakness, dizziness or headache?
- Ears ringing, watery eyes?

These could be the beginning signs of CO poisoning!

TREATMENT

Don't wait for it to get worse. If you or a family member begin fainting or becoming unconscious:

- Seek medical attention immediately.
- Get them to fresh, moving air right away.
- If you have supplemental oxygen onboard, administer that to lessen symptoms. They need large quantities of fresh air!
- Victims may respond quickly but relapse later so don't leave their side until they have medical attention.

PREVENTION

Carbon monoxide is a silent killer but it's preventable and you can take steps to keep both your family and friends safe.

- Don't swim, surf, or play in the exhaust (kill) zones!
- Check for leaks at your engine and generator exhaust systems.
- Check seals around hatches and portholes.
- Be sure all of your generators and stoves are ventilated well and maintained.
- Get a free Vessel Safety Check or download the [virtual checklist](#) here.

Strong moving air is CO's enemy



- If your engines are running, keep passengers OFF the swim platform unless there is a strong flow of air.
- If you are idle in the water, anchored, moored, or docked you may not have a strong breeze – be cautious running the engines or generators, especially overnight.
- Ensure a free flow of air from bow to stern on a moving boat and run your exhaust blowers while using generators to prevent what is known as the “station wagon effect” or back drafting.

Alarm-ING

- Invest in a marine-rated carbon monoxide detector with a visible and audio alarm.
- Install alarms in the cockpit, cabin, and sleeping areas.
- Check them often, ensure the vents are clear.
- Replace the batteries regularly.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is one of the most dangerous poisons, once you realize it's killing you it may be too late.

The focus of **Boat Live 365** and its key areas of interest are determined by the U.S. Coast Guard. It's important for us all to be aware of and discuss each of them, all year long.



The dangers of drinking alcohol, taking drugs and other irresponsible behavior on the water.



The importance of reporting boating accidents.



The importance of wearing a life jacket and life jacket standards.



The dangers of propeller strikes and emphasizing the use of an emergency engine cut-off device.



The dangers of cold-water immersion and how to lessen the danger.



The benefits of keeping a lookout and navigation rules and aids.



The importance of boater safety training.



The responsibility of boat operators keeping themselves and others safe.



The dangers of being poisoned by carbon monoxide.

BOATING IS SERIOUS FUN.

www.boatlive365.org

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