

# What you should know about Carbon Monoxide

## What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless and tasteless gas. It is produced when burning a carbon-based fuel, such as gasoline, propane, charcoal or oil. Sources on your boat may include engines, gas generators, cooking ranges and space / water heaters.

## Why is it so dangerous?

CO enters your bloodstream through the lungs, blocking the oxygen your body needs. CO is a silent killer and is **surprisingly found in open deck areas**. See pictograms below.

## How to Protect Others & Yourself

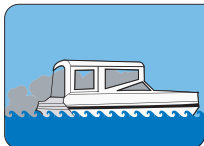
- Maintain fresh air circulation throughout the boat at all times.
- Run exhaust blowers whenever the generator is operating.
- Never sit, "teak surf," or hang on the back deck or swim platform while the engines or generators are running or the boat is under way.
- Never enter areas under swim platforms where exhaust outlets are located unless the area has been properly ventilated.
- Although CO can be present without the smell of exhaust fumes, if you smell exhaust fumes, CO is also present. Take immediate action to dissipate these fumes.
- Install and maintain CO alarms inside your boat. Do not ignore any alarm.



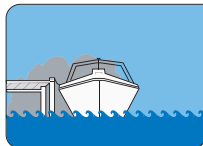
## CO Checklist

- Make sure you know where CO exhausts are located on your vessel.
- Educate all guests about the symptoms of CO poisoning and where CO may accumulate.
- When docked, or rafted with another boat, be aware of exhaust emissions from the other boat(s).
- Listen for any change in exhaust sound, which could indicate an exhaust component failure.
- Test the operation of each CO alarm regularly.

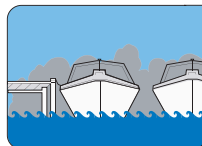
Canvas enclosures and cabin spaces



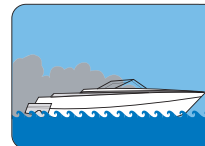
Blocked exhaust outlets



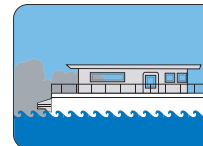
Fumes from neighbouring boats



"Station wagon" effect or backdrafting at low speeds



Swim platforms



**CO output of 1 inboard boat engine equals over 150 car engines!**

\* Early symptoms of CO poisoning include irritated eyes, headache, nausea, weakness, and dizziness. They are often confused with seasickness or intoxication, so those affected may not receive the medical attention they need.

