

BOATING SAFETY ACTIVITIES

EDUCATION AND FUN WITH A PURPOSE

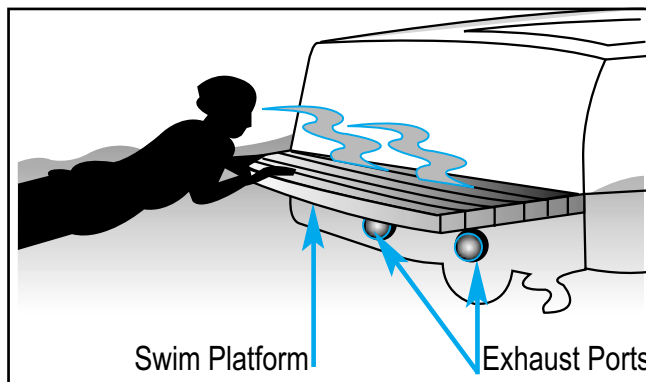
CARBON MONOXIDE(CO)- "THE CREEPER OF THE TEAK"

Activity:

Opening question/statement: *What's colorless, odorless, tasteless and can kill you even while you wear a life jacket? The answer is carbon monoxide.*

Discuss the dangers of CO poisoning with the participants. Show the participants the graphic (*at right, person teak surfing*) to show them the causes, effects and invisibility of carbon monoxide. This graphic is also available as a full-color downloadable file from the Campaign's website. Additional information about CO poisoning is also available in a brochure available from the Campaign as a "resource to order" publication. The order form is available within the Campaign kit.

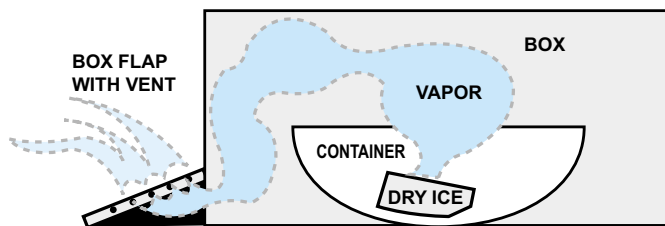
This activity involves a demonstration of the action and properties of carbon monoxide. The demonstration involves using dry ice placed in a container. Dry ice (*frozen carbon dioxide, CO₂*), due to its extreme cold must be handled with caution—gloves and safety glasses should be worn. Never place dry ice in a sealed container such as a soda bottle. Use a small block or a few pellets of dry ice. The container is placed on a table in front of the participants. A box with four flaps is required. Three of



the four flaps are cut flush with the sides of the box (*as shown in diagram*) and the remaining flap is folded back. To emulate the open spaces between the swim platform of most boats, cut a few horizontal openings in the flap. Lift the box and pour a small amount of warm water into the container. Place the box back over the container. The contact of the box edge to the table top should provide an effective seal on three sides so most of the dry ice vapor accumulates and works its way to the artificial vent created by the remaining box flap. The dry ice container is identified as the boat's inboard motor, the box flap as the swim platform and the visible dry ice vapor as the carbon monoxide.

Purpose:

To show how carbon monoxide can creep and kill while people "teak surf" from swim platforms.



IMPORTANT

When presenting an activity on life jackets and boating safety, one **basic goal** is to promote awareness of the importance of wearing a life jacket while involved in boating and water-related sports. They must know how to use them correctly and feel comfortable with their use. If a person feels comfortable in the life jacket and is familiar with what it can do, chances of survival increase. Remember, particularly with in-water activities, a life jacket should **NOT** be considered a substitute for swimming ability. A life jacket is an aid to buoyancy. Swimming skills are still the basic ingredient to water safety.

These activities can be adapted for different situations with different age groups. Permit the group to get comfortable in the water before starting the activity. You should always be in a position to observe everyone in the pool, or you may assign others to be safety observers.

Safety, when in the water, using boating equipment or participating in demonstrations (such as the carbon monoxide activity) is of the utmost importance. Precautions for selected activities and participants are the responsibility of the presenter.