**Carbon Monoxide Poisoning**

As summer winds down and it becomes cooler outside, doors and windows are closed more often, and the heaters are turning on more frequently. It is also a good time to become more conscious of equipment that is being used indoors, especially gas-powered ones in enclosed areas like; forklifts, gas heaters, generators, etc. CO is odorless, colorless and otherwise undetectable to the human senses, which people will not realize that they are being exposed. You should inspect any equipment that uses combustible fuels for proper operation and use:

* Check heater exhausts flues to make sure that they are not damaged and that they are venting completely outside.
* Propane forklifts need tune ups also. A sticking choke will cause the machine to emit more CO exhaust and use more fuel than it should.
* Generators should always be used outside.
* Install CO detector/alarm(s) for added protection.

Beginning symptoms are headaches, dizziness and drowsiness. Longer exposure leads to nausea, vomiting, tightness across the chest. If you are experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning, get to fresh air right away and seek immediate medical attention.

More information can be found at:

[RS SafetyTV](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-_I4binSRgmHZGxUf02qvRw50lmdjklZ)

[EPA article on Carbon Monoxide](https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/carbon-monoxides-impact-indoor-air-quality)

WRA employs Rick Means as a Safety Specialist who is available to members to help draw up safety plans and suggest topics for safety meetings. Contact him at 360-943-9198, Ext. 18, or safety@waretailassociation.com.