



## February 18 — Carbon Monoxide Hazard

<p><b>Another contractor was operating a gas-powered pressure washer inside creating CO.</b></p>	<p><b>Called the contractor to see if there was a reason why it was being ran inside. Did not have one. He ask them to move it out</b></p>
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Another contractor was operating a gas-powered pressure washer inside an enclosed area, creating a carbon monoxide hazard.

**A washer roared with heat and flame,  
But indoor air was not the same.  
Fresh air first before you start,  
Or silent gas will play its part.**

The equipment was running normally, but the environment made it dangerous. Gas burners produce carbon monoxide a colorless, odorless gas that can build up quickly indoors. Because CO can't be seen or smelled, workers often don't realize the danger until symptoms appear. What feels like a routine cleaning task can quietly turn into a life-threatening atmosphere.

Carbon monoxide doesn't warn you. It overwhelms you.

### Hazards

- Carbon monoxide poisoning
- Dizziness, confusion, or loss of consciousness
- Delayed recognition of dangerous atmosphere
- Multiple-worker exposure in enclosed spaces
- Fatal outcomes in poorly ventilated areas

### Stats

- Carbon monoxide is a leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths
- Gas-powered equipment is a common source of CO in industrial settings
- CO can accumulate rapidly in enclosed or poorly ventilated areas
- Symptoms often appear before workers recognize the hazard

### Words of Wisdom

- If it burns fuel, it needs fresh air.
- Invisible hazards are often the most dangerous.
- If you wouldn't run it in your garage at home, don't run it inside here.

### Pause and Think

Gas-powered equipment is often treated as portable and harmless because it's used outdoors so often. When it's brought inside, the risk changes instantly. Without ventilation, carbon monoxide builds silently, and workers may not realize what's happening until it's too late. The danger isn't the machine, it's where the machine is used.

- What equipment on our site produces exhaust gases?
- How do we know if an area is properly ventilated?
- Who is responsible for stopping work when air quality becomes unsafe?