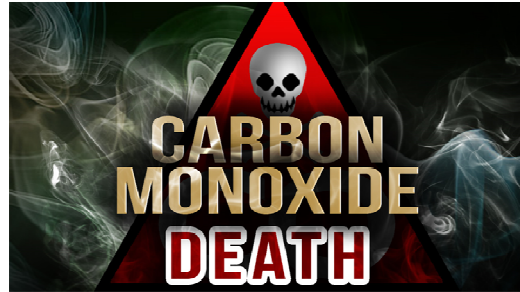


## TOOLBOX TALK #43

### WORKER DIES FROM CO POISONING

On the day of the incident, a maintenance crew supervisor was overseeing a crew using a pressure washer and a disc grinder to remove old paint from a piece of equipment. Crew members were working on the piece of equipment in different areas that were covered with plastic tarps to prevent paint chips from causing any issues with adjacent personnel. The victim moved the pressure washer to an area that was fully enclosed by the tarps. He used the pressure washer for about 20 minutes. A coworker later found him unconscious. The medical examiner reported the cause of death as “carbon monoxide intoxication due to inhalation of engine exhaust.”



#### *To prevent similar occurrences:*

- Ensure gasoline-powered pressure washers or other fuel-powered tools are not used in enclosed or partially enclosed areas.
- Instruct employees on the hazards, sources, symptoms and control of carbon monoxide exposure from fuel-powered equipment.
- Ensure personal carbon monoxide detectors equipped with audible alarms are used when employees are working with small gasoline-powered engines in locations where carbon monoxide may build up.
- Coordinate work activities at jobsites with multiple employees to ensure safe work.
- Ensure carbon monoxide safety warning labels are attached to pressure washers, and replace labels when they are no longer legible.
- Consider using alternatives to fuel-powered equipment and tools.