

Bristol Fire Department Safety Concern



Welcome Race Fans

Carbon Monoxide (CO), also known as the “Silent Killer”, is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, highly toxic gas that is undetectable to the human senses. It is a by-product of combustion, present whenever fuel is burned from: **kerosene, charcoal, diesel fuel, wood, gasoline, natural or LP gas, coal, propane, oil, methane, and even tobacco smoke.** When CO is inhaled, it enters the blood stream and reduces the ability of the blood to carry oxygen to vital organs, such as the heart and brain. Victims may become disoriented before realizing any danger, unable to call for help or exit the premises.

“Bristol Motor Speedway race events create a heightened alert for the Bristol Fire Department staff relating to carbon monoxide hazards”, said Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshall Jack Spurgeon. The population influx in the temporary campgrounds located in and around the BMS complex is where the real concern is. The increased concern stems from the use of equipment that produces this “Silent Killer” as a by-product. The placement of thousands of RVs, campers, and tents in close proximity to one another generates the potential for tragic events.

Bristol Fire Department is often called to assist when people suspect that carbon monoxide might be present. Some of these calls are initiated after a CO alarm activates and some result from victims being discovered who have symptoms of CO poisoning. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that the amount of exhaust from one generator is equivalent to that of hundreds of idling cars.

Here are some helpful tips that will eliminate some situations that could lead to CO poisoning:

- ⚠️ Never use fuel-burning heaters or lanterns while sleeping in tents, campers, RVs or other enclosed areas; use battery-powered lights,

- ⚠ Do not store propane tanks indoors,
- ⚠ Start all gas-, diesel-, or propane-powered equipment outside,
- ⚠ Even with the door open, never use a barbecue grill in a tent, camper, van or RV,
- ⚠ A generator should be placed well away from your unit because carbon monoxide can get pulled through vents or open doors,
- ⚠ Be aware of your neighbors exhaust and other equipment that may produce this by product.

Symptoms can mimic a common cold, a hangover, food poisoning, depression or flu (without body ache or fever). Other symptoms could be:

- Dizziness, ringing in the ears,
- Blurred vision, burning eyes,
- Persistent throbbing headaches,
- Tightness across the forehead,
- Nausea and vomiting,
- Intoxicated appearance,
- Short of breath,
- Confusion, disorientation, loss of muscle control

“If a family member experiences carbon monoxide symptoms that decrease when away from your tent, camper, or RV you should seek medical treatment”, said Spurgeon. “CO poisoning is especially toxic to infants and children; mother and unborn child during pregnancy; the elderly; smokers; people with anemia, coronary or respiratory problems; and, people with immune system diseases”, added Spurgeon..

We want everyone visiting Bristol and BMS to have a wonderful and memorable experience. Please don't allow a preventable incident involving the “Silent Killer” result in a tragic event that could even be fatal. If you have any concerns throughout your stay, safety personnel are located in and around the track; if you have an emergency you need to call 911 immediately.