



Topic: - Are you aware of the dangers of Carbon Monoxide poisoning?

Are you aware of what happened in your area?

On the 24th January 2021 a crew from Rugeley were called to a Stables in Trysull to reports of a possible carbon Monoxide poisoning.

On arrival Two adults and three children were showing signs of carbon monoxide poisoning. One 7 year old patient was receiving treatment from the ambulance service, the patient was unconscious but responded well to treatment.

The family had been in a room with a generator whilst looking after the welfare of their horses.

Are you aware of the signs of Carbon Monoxide poisoning?

The dangers of Carbon Monoxide poisoning

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

By far, the most serious danger involved with using a generator is carbon monoxide poisoning (CO). **Every year, people die because they incorrectly use a generator and get CO poisoning.** NEVER use a generator in an enclosed, or a partially enclosed space.

You can't see it, you can't smell it



Generators, as with many engine run machines, produce a lot of carbon monoxide very quickly. It's completely odourless and you can't see the gas. Even if you can't smell the exhaust fumes, it doesn't mean you're not exposed.

Sick, dizzy, or weak



If you start to feel unwell while using a generator, get out into the fresh air right away. Symptoms of CO poisoning include feeling dizzy, sick or weak, however this can quickly turn to incapacitation, then death.

Other symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include, headache, shortness of breath, tiredness and confusion.



Safe Use of Your Generator

NEVER USE A GENERATOR INDOORS

The only way to protect you and others around you from carbon monoxide poisoning is to never use a generator indoors. Never run a generator in your home, garage, cellar, shed, cabin, tent or any other enclosed area. Even partially-open areas with ventilation will build up CO - opening doors and windows or using a fan won't negate the risks.



- Follow the instructions that come with your generator
- Locate the unit outdoors, well away from any doors, windows and vents
- Get yourself a CO alarm with battery backup for your home or workplace
- Test your CO alarm frequently and change the batteries as required

Remember: Every year people die of carbon monoxide poisoning. Never run your generator in an enclosed space. CO poisoning can kill you in minutes.

Fit a carbon monoxide detector

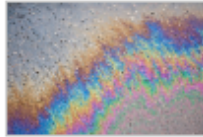




Fire and Explosion Hazards

FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARDS

Clear up any spilled fuel immediately



Fuel in the open air is much more likely to catch fire than fuel correctly stored. Even a small spillage can lead to a much bigger problem in the wrong circumstances. Clear up any fuel as soon as a spillage occurs.

Never refuel a warm generator



Before you refuel a depleted generators fuel tank, make sure the whole generator has had a chance to cool down. Switch it off and leave it for at least an hour. Spilled fuel on a hot engine can ignite.

Store your fuel safely



Whether your generator runs off petrol, diesel or LPG, you should never store it in your home. Keep flammable fuels outside of a living space and have it properly labelled in appropriate safety containers. Don't leave your fuel near a fuel-burning appliance, such as a heater in a garage. If your fuel is not properly sealed, vapours will slowly escape and accumulate. This vapour can be ignited by a pilot light or even arcs from electrical switches in appliances.

What can you do to help?

It's important that we do our best together to reduce the risks to the members of our community.

If you need any further information or advice, please give us a call and have a chat with your Community Safety Officers. Service is completely confidential.

01785 898719 or email: - wsdgpreventteam@staffordshirefire.gov.uk

In the event of an emergency get out, stay out and dial 999