



# Carbon Monoxide

# Bulletin

## The Facts

### Carbon Monoxide detected in a vessel access way

In January, a routine confined space check was being carried out in the access way to a vessel hold.

Within a short period of time the gas monitor alarmed showing Carbon Monoxide or CO—was present.

The access way had a recessed hatch leading to another part of the vessel.

Work was stopped and the Captain of the vessel was notified. The source of the CO was agreed to be coming from somewhere else on the vessel.

The detection of the CO gas shows the value of our confined space procedure which tests for CO and other harmful gases.

### What is CO?

CO is a colourless, odourless, tasteless, poisonous gas produced by incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels, including gas, oil, wood and coal.



When CO is breathed in, it stops the blood from bringing oxygen to cells, tissues and organs.

The signs of CO exposure are—Headaches, Nausea, Dizziness, Breathlessness, Collapse and finally Loss of Consciousness.

Notify your supervisor or manager if you have concerns about any appliance or piece of plant at work. If in doubt, ask.

Issued on behalf of Forth Ports Limited by:  
Health, Safety & Environment Department

\* Please remove from notice board after 1 month

## The Solutions

### CO poisoning can occur at work and at home

CO poisoning in the home is caused by faulty or badly-serviced gas and other fossil fuel-burning appliances.

In the UK, CO poisoning in the home accounts for 50 deaths per year on average.

### What are the signs of CO presence?

- Boiler pilot light burning orange instead of blue
- Sooty stains on or near appliances
- Excessive condensation in the room
- Coal or wood fires that burn slowly or go out
- Families suffering prolonged, flu-like symptoms.

### How can I reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning?

- Have your gas appliances serviced annually by a Gas Safe engineer [Click Here - Gas Safe Register](#)
- Use professionals to annually service fossil-fuel burning appliances, eg. oil and coal burning stoves
- Fix carbon monoxide detectors in your home. These can be purchased from DIY stores.
- At work, always gas test before entering a confined space and always follow the Confined Space Procedure.



Minimum briefing to be ticked:

Management		Supervisors	
Operations		Engineering	
Admin		Marine	
All Employees	✓	Noticeboards	



# SAFETY FIRST