



Avoid dying or being injured from carbon monoxide poisoning



Ken Jeffery was found collapsed on board his boat on 16 February 2017. Paramedics were unable to resuscitate him. An inquest found that he died from carbon monoxide poisoning. There was 68% carbon monoxide in his blood.

What is carbon monoxide (CO)?

A deadly gas that can be emitted from faulty cooking and heating appliances powered by any carbon-based fuel that burns.



Fuels include gas, coal, wood, petrol, diesel.



Can you identify potential sources of carbon monoxide in the picture above? For the answers go to <http://www.co-gassafety.co.uk/answers/>

CO cannot be sensed using human senses of smell, taste, sight or touch.

Less than 2% of CO in the air can kill in between one and three minutes.

http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/hid_circs/technical_osd/spc_tech_osd_30/spctecosd30.pdf

(Paragraph 74 table 23 page 26)

Firemen when talking about CO in smoke (which you can smell) say it takes only three breaths; the first you don't know there's a problem; the second you might suspect there's something wrong; by the third you are unable to take any action.



CO alone being emitted from cooking and heating appliances has no smell.

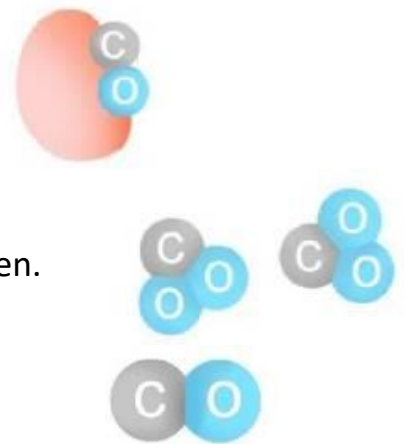
Why is CO so lethal?

Because it binds to the haemoglobin in the blood, which normally carries oxygen, so it suffocates.

What is the difference between CO and CO₂?

CO₂ consists of one atom of carbon and two of oxygen.

CO also contains one atom of carbon but only one atom of oxygen.
CO is emitted when there is a lack of oxygen at the flame.



How do you prevent CO in your home?

1. Install all cooking and heating appliances correctly according to manufacturer's instructions using properly qualified people. With gas they must be Gas Safe Registered and qualified to work on your type of appliance.
2. Maintain your appliances regularly according to manufacturer's instructions using qualified people.
3. Have chimneys and flues swept and checked by a sweep belonging to a recognised trade organisation.
4. Ensure adequate ventilation. Don't block grilles that were put in to ventilate a fire etc.
5. As an extra safeguard (e.g. to protect against a bird's nest falling down the chimney) buy and fit a CO alarm to EN 50291 from a reputable supplier.



Low levels of CO over a long period can make people ill, but GPs rarely diagnose this as CO.

Symptoms of low-level poisoning include:



HEADACHES



DIZZINESS



TIREDFNESS



BREATHLESSNESS



NAUSEA

and generally feeling unwell, like many viral illnesses **including Covid-19**.

Different members of the family can suffer different symptoms

Please make sure you're safe from CO and other products of combustion.

In an emergency, please ring **01534 755555** for Jersey Gas Emergency Service.



If you need further information, please visit www.co-gassafety.co.uk

Please watch our one minute film about Sue who had carbon monoxide poisoning – it could save your life or that of a loved one: <http://www.co-gassafety.co.uk/one-survivors-story/>

Open air carbon monoxide poisoning – deaths in the USA – boats/swim platforms

UC Bearcats midfielder Ally Sidloski, 21, drowned at East Fork Lake in Ohio on May 22 2021. She'd been hanging onto a swim platform. Inquest not yet held.

<https://tinyurl.com/b6hvpz4m>

Little Andy Free, aged nine, had been “curled up” at the back of his family’s Malibu Skier at Lake Eufaula in Oklahoma in early June 2020, “slowly dying” of open air carbon monoxide poisoning his devastated mom wrote on Facebook

<https://tinyurl.com/yv5ndsj7>

Afton Taylor died in June 2019 in Northeast Ohio after carbon monoxide poisoning on a routine boat trip: his parents want to warn others

<https://tinyurl.com/uzjuezux>

CO-Gas Safety is an independent registered charity run almost entirely by volunteers, offering free and confidential help and advice to victims and their families.

We are especially interested in helping those who have lost a loved one or who are suffering. To get in touch, please email office@co-gassafety.co.uk.

You can also telephone or text Stephanie Trotter on 07803 088688. If she can't talk to you, please leave your name, number and email address and she will call you back. Stephanie will do her utmost to contact you and help, especially in emergencies and for anyone who has lost a loved one.

Stephanie will always try to be accessible to help you, but if she is not available you can contact a solicitor for free initial legal advice. It is vital to preserve evidence. Please see contact details, which we will put up if necessary, on our website at www.co-gassafety.co.uk

Ken Jeffery's story, as told by his wife Margaret Jeffery

Ken had been starting the engines of the boat under the canopy in the cockpit. The engine was powered by petrol. The fumes or products of combustion were being funnelled back into the cockpit from the exhaust outside the boat. Tests carried out found the canopy filled up with carbon monoxide in a matter of minutes.

Ken was an extremely experienced sailor, first learning to handle a dinghy when he was about seven years old. He was a former ship's pilot in Jersey which is well known for its dangerous coast. He was in the merchant navy, graduating to first officer. He spent several years on huge cargo ships going all over the world. He owned a boat of some sort all his adult life. He was a very careful man who seldom took risks. He believed in belt and braces. He would never knowingly put his life or the lives of others in danger. Yet in spite of this, he died in a devastating accident which could so easily have been avoided.

Mr Lee Battrick, marine surveyor and consultant, who completed an accident report on Ken's death said there are a number of things individuals can do to reduce the risk of being poisoned. Fire & CO alarms should be fitted on boats. He said maintenance is also extremely important. Boat owners should regularly check their engines, exhausts and anything else which is in a confined space that can give off the gas. People should also be cautious about going straight into a space where they see someone unconscious because the level of gas may still be high.

www.bailiwickexpress.com/jsy/news/family-man-who-died-boat-warns-dangers-carbon-monoxide/#.XclJw252vMV

CO-Gas Safety almost certainly has the best data on unintentional deaths and injuries from CO from all fuels in the UK from 1995. The charity received £50,000 in 2015 from Thomas Cook thanks to the parents of the Corfu children. The charity received £100,000 Christmas 2020 from a family that wishes to remain anonymous. However, the charity's costs are approx. £35,000 and is run completely by volunteers except for the help we use to collate our data. Please see <http://www.co-gassafety.co.uk/information/co-gas-safety-statistics-of-deaths-and-injuries/> and download our years of data from 1995 and our pie charts, updated yearly. However, our data is not quantitative because we know many deaths are not recorded as CO.

CO-Gas Safety has lobbied for public warnings about CO since 1995.

Company Registration No. 03084435 Charity Registration No. 1048370

*Illustrations of CO symptoms and grave by competition winner Chihiro.
All other illustrations by John O'Leary <http://www.johnolearyillustration.co.uk>
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