

Warehouses and Carbon Monoxide

Prevent poisoning and injury with these simple steps.



Fuel-powered lifts and trucks are commonly used in warehouses. They burn Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) or diesel fuel, releasing carbon monoxide (CO) into the air. CO cannot be seen or smelled; breathing too much CO can cause illness or death.



Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

- Train staff to watch out for symptoms. Headaches, dizziness, and nausea that clear up with fresh air may be signs of CO poisoning.
- Watch for all fuel-burning machines in the warehouse, like idling trucks. Regularly check and maintain furnaces, propane heaters, and other fuel-powered equipment. All fuel-powered vehicles and equipment can release CO in their exhaust. Their combined emissions may result in higher concentrations of CO.
- Install CO detectors in areas with forklifts, trucks, and other fuel-powered equipment. Provide wearable CO detectors for workers. Detectors are important because CO cannot be seen or smelled but can sicken or kill people.



Tune Up or Choose Electric Vehicles

- Schedule regular tune-ups. Poorly maintained LPG or diesel equipment can emit greater concentrations of CO. This includes forklifts, scissor lifts, trucks, and other powered industrial vehicles.
- Make emissions analysis part of your maintenance routine.
- Routinely install clean air filters in all fuel-powered forklifts and powered industrial vehicles.
- When possible, go electric. Electric forklifts and other vehicles do not emit CO.



Provide Fresh Air

- Never operate fuel-powered vehicles in a truck or container without proper airflow. Containers and trucks with solid sides can trap CO inside.
- Use caution operating a fuel-powered lift or truck in tight spaces or loading docks. Ensure proper airflow if work must be done in an enclosed or semi-enclosed space. Do not use fuel-powered equipment in poorly ventilated areas. Any enclosed or semi-enclosed space can trap CO if it's not properly ventilated.

