

For more information about how you can prevent carbon monoxide poisoning on recreational boats and for other boating safety information, contact:

**United States Coast Guard**

Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety  
Commandant (CG-BSX-2) Stop – 7501  
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20593-7501  
[uscgboating.org](http://uscgboating.org)  
202.372.1062

**National Marine Manufacturers Association**

231 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 2050  
Chicago, IL 60604  
[nmma.org](http://nmma.org)  
312.946.6200

**American Boat & Yacht Council**

613 Third Street, Suite 10  
Annapolis, MD 21403  
[abycinc.org](http://abycinc.org)  
410.990.4460



[nmma.org](http://nmma.org)

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# CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

**BOATING SAFETY AWARENESS SERIES**

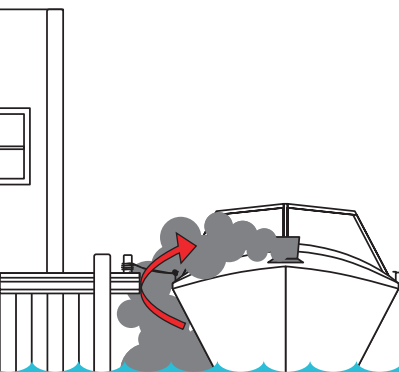
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# CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)

can be a silent killer on board your boat. To help prevent carbon monoxide poisonings, a marine-rated CO detector should be present on every gasoline or diesel-powered boat with an enclosed accommodation space, or boat with an LPG (propane) system or open flame device, such as an alcohol stove.



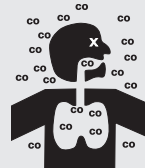
- CO detectors save lives: They provide early alerts of the presence of CO in your boat.
- Always use a marine-rated CO detector on your boat. Never use a household CO detector.
- Always have a working CO detector on board: CO can come from your vessel or other vessels around you.
- Test the detector every time you board your boat.
- Never disconnect a CO detector because of “nuisance” alarms. These alarms are telling you that CO is present.
- Ensure that you properly maintain your detector. Read your owner’s manual and follow the detector manufacturer’s recommendations.
- Replace the CO detector every 5 years or at the manufacturer’s recommended intervals.



EFFECT OF SEA WALLS AND OTHER CONFINED SPACES

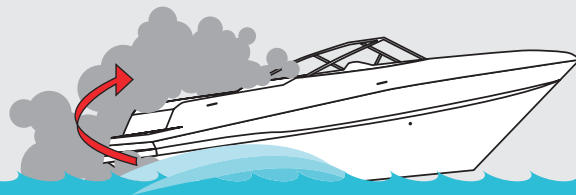
Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that is produced from the combustion of a carbon-based fuel such as gasoline, propane, alcohol or charcoal.

- CO enters your bloodstream through your lungs and replaces oxygen with CO molecules, thus blocking oxygen from entering your bloodstream. At low levels, CO poisoning symptoms mirror those of sea sickness and at high levels CO poisoning can result in unconsciousness or death.
- A CO detector “sniffs” the air around it at set timed intervals and sounds its alarm when it detects CO at a low level.



When CO is detected the CO detector will sound its alarm.

- If the alarm sounds, shut off any CO producing devices such as engines, generators or stoves and move passengers to safety.
- Never ignore a CO alarm. The alarm is directing the operator of the boat to remove themselves and their passengers from the hazard and then take action to reduce and eliminate the presence of CO.
- Ventilate the boat—open all doors, windows and hatches, and change the heading of the boat, if possible, into the wind.
- Look for sources of CO that may be from other boats, and take appropriate steps, which may include moving your boat to a safe place.
- The alarm will stop when CO levels are below a hazardous level.
- If anyone is exhibiting signs of CO poisoning, move them to fresh air and seek medical assistance.



BACKDRAFTING (STATION WAGON EFFECT)