The Dangers of Carbon Monoxide

Provided by Curtis Speck, President
Safety Resources Company of Ohio, Inc.
And Stark County Safety Committee Steering Member

As the weather gets colder and more workplaces begin using various methods of space heating, so too does the risk of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning increase.

Carbon Monoxide, or CO, is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that is a common byproduct of the incomplete burning of natural gas or other carbon containing fuels, such as gasoline, wood, coal, kerosene, or propane. When inhaled, CO deprives the heart, brain, and other vital organs of oxygen by displacing it in the bloodstream. In large enough concentrations, CO can cause you to lose consciousness or even suffocate in just minutes. Worse still, Carbon Monoxide is nearly undetectable without monitoring equipment, meaning that the early signs of exposure to CO can often be the only warnings one will get. Because of this, it is important to be aware not only of the symptoms of CO exposure, but also of the sources and risk factors that can lead to exposure in the first place.

December 8, 2016

“Having a Positive Attitude Toward Safety”
Marvin Montgomery
Author/Motivational Speaker/Professional Sales Trainer
Toys for Tots Collection at This Meeting

December Spotlight Company:

LEPC- Stark County
Local Emergency Planning Committee
Who We Are, What We Do!

⇒ The first is to collect information on hazardous substances that are used in industry throughout the county. We receive chemical inventories annually from those facilities that are required to report the presence of chemicals. These information collection activities provide the basis for the “Emergency Planning Community Right to Know Act” which states that every member of the community has the right to know what chemicals are being used at facilities in their own neighborhood.
⇒ We also participate in planning meetings with many of those facilities to assist them in preparation and review of their emergency response plans.
⇒ In addition, the LEPC assists 1st Responders – Police, Firefighters and EMS - by coordinating or providing educational opportunities to assist them in preparing to respond to incidents related to or caused by the release of those hazardous substances.

Contact: Don McDonald, LEPC
Office: 330-451-3907
Email: sclepc@co.stark.ohio.us

Like us on Facebook-www.starkcountysafetycouncil.org.

Stark County Safety Council Mission Statement: To provide a forum for safety and health information, education and networking in Stark County, through leadership, innovation, facilitation, program, and support, in partnership with other public and private organizations.
Light Up Downtown is tonight!

Thank you SCSC Members for all your donations of hats, gloves and mittens, they will be distributed tonight at Light Up Downtown!
Q: Why is Nylon Lifting Sling Inspection Important and How Do I Inspect Them?

A: No matter how durable your nylon web sling is, eventually it will wear out and need to be replaced. Inspecting a web lifting sling before each use does not only protect the load your lifting but the people working on the job site. From cuts and abrasions to chemical and heat damage there are several factors that can lead to a damaged sling. Following the below nylon sling check list will ensure each time the sling is used to lift an object everyone and thing is safe.

How To Inspect A Web Sling

Sling Damage: Surface and Edge Cuts
It is important to realize that all of the fibers in web slings contribute to the strength of that sling. When there have been a significant number of fibers broken in a nylon web sling, that sling should be taken out of service.

What to Inspect:
Broken fibers of equal length indicate that the sling has been cut by an edge. Red core warning yarns may or may not be visible with cuts and are not required to show before removing slings from service.

How to Prevent:
Always protect synthetic slings from being cut by corners and edges by using wear pads or other devices.

Sling Damage: Holes, Snags, and Pulls

What to Inspect:
Punctures or areas where fibers stand out from the rest of the sling surface.

How to Prevent:
Avoid sling contact with protrusions, both during lifts and while transporting or storing.

Sling Damage: Abrasion

What to Inspect:
Areas of the sling that look and feel fuzzy indicate that the fibers have been broken by being subject to contact and movement against a rough surface. Affected areas are usually stained.

How to Prevent:
Never drag slings along the ground. Never pull slings from under loads that are resting on the sling. Use wear pads between slings and rough surface loads.

Sling Damage: Heat and Chemical

What to Inspect:
Melted or charred fibers anywhere along the sling. Heat and chemical damage can look similar and they both have the effect of damaging sling fibers and compromising the sling’s strength. Look for discoloration and/or fibers that have been fused together and often feel hard or crunchy.

How to Prevent:
Never use nylon or polyester slings where they can be exposed to temperatures in excess of 200° F. Never use nylon or polyester slings in or around chemicals without confirming that the sling material is compatible with the chemicals being used.

Sling Damage: Knots:

What to Inspect:
Knots are rather obvious problems to detect.

How to Prevent:
Never tie knots in slings and never use slings that are knotted.

Sling Damage: Broken/Worn Stitching:
The main stitch patterns of web slings have a direct adverse effect on the strength of a sling. The stitch patterns in web slings have been engineered to produce the most strength out of the webbing. If the stitching is not fully intact, the strength of the sling may be affected.

What to Inspect:
Loose or broken threads in the main stitch patterns.

How to Prevent:
Never pull slings from beneath loads where stitch patterns can get hung up or snagged. Never overload the slings or allow the load edge to directly contact the stitch pattern while lifting. Never place a sling eye over a hook or other attachment whose width/diameter exceeds 1/3 the eye length.
One of the most frequently cited OSHA violations is Lockout/Tagout once again in 2016. I often wonder how this violation shows up on the top 10 list year after year. Maybe employers lack the manpower to get this program in place. Maybe employers don’t know where to purchase these Lockout/Tagout devices. Maybe employers don’t have time or resources for training on this topic or need trained first. Maybe there are many other reasons that I couldn’t begin to imagine since I’m not a safety director.

I feel we have good news to tell. I want to assure you that the Stark County Safety Council is here to help and we have a vast array of resources at your disposal.

If this is a topic you need us to address in 2017, please be vocal and tell the safety council steering team that you need this topic for training purposes (maybe a seminar that we could put on). Please reach out to the BWC for assistance at your facilities, as I know they want to assist you in this area. Please network with other safety professionals at our meetings (this is an amazing group of safety experts). Please reach out to safety training and safety supply companies that are involved in our safety council as they would love to help you.

I hope the resources below from the OSHA website might serve as a framework for starting to address this issue:

“What is hazardous energy?”
Energy sources including electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, chemical, thermal, or other sources in machines and equipment can be hazardous to workers. During the servicing and maintenance of machines and equipment, the unexpected startup or release of stored energy can result in serious injury or death to workers.

What are the harmful effects of hazardous energy?
Workers servicing or maintaining machines or equipment may be seriously injured or killed if hazardous energy is not properly controlled. Injuries resulting from the failure to control hazardous energy...
during maintenance activities can be serious or fatal! Injuries may include electrocution, burns, crushing, cutting, lacerating, amputating, or fracturing body parts, and others.

A steam valve is automatically turned on burning workers who are repairing a downstream connection in the piping.

A jammed conveyor system suddenly releases, crushing a worker who is trying to clear the jam.

Internal wiring on a piece of factory equipment electrically shorts, shocking worker who is repairing the equipment.

Craft workers, electricians, machine operators, and laborers are among the 3 million workers who service equipment routinely and face the greatest risk of injury. Workers injured on the job from exposure to hazardous energy lose an average of 24 workdays for recuperation.

**What can be done to control hazardous energy?**

Failure to control hazardous energy accounts for nearly 10 percent of the serious accidents in many industries. Proper lockout/tagout (LOTO) practices and procedures safeguard workers from hazardous energy releases. OSHA's Lockout/Tagout Fact Sheet describes the practices and procedures necessary to disable machinery or equipment to prevent hazardous energy release. The OSHA standard for The Control of Hazardous Energy (Lockout/Tagout) (29 CFR 1910.147) for general industry outlines measures for controlling different types of hazardous energy. The LOTO standard establishes the employer's responsibility to protect workers from hazardous energy. Employers are also required to train each worker to ensure that they know, understand, and are able to follow the applicable provisions of the hazardous energy control procedures:

Proper lockout/tagout (LOTO) practices and procedures safeguard workers from the release of hazardous energy. The OSHA standard for The Control of Hazardous Energy (Lockout/Tagout) (29 CFR 1910.147) for general industry outlines specific action and procedures for addressing and controlling hazardous energy during servicing and maintenance of machines and equipment. Employers are also required to train each worker to ensure that they know, understand, and are able to follow the applicable provisions of the hazardous energy control procedures. Workers must be trained in the purpose and function of the energy control program and have the knowledge and skills required for the safe application, usage and removal of the energy control devices.

All employees who work in an area where energy control procedure(s) are utilized need to be instructed in the purpose and use of the energy control procedure(s), especially prohibition against attempting to restart or reenergize machines or other equipment that are locked or tagged out.

All employees who are authorized to lockout machines or equipment and perform the service and maintenance operations need to be trained in recognition of applicable hazardous energy sources in the workplace, the type and magnitude of energy found in the workplace, and the means and methods of isolating and/or controlling the energy.

Specific procedures and limitations relating to tagout systems where they are allowed. Retraining of all employees to maintain proficiency or introduce new or changed control methods.

OSHA's Lockout/Tagout Fact Sheet describes the practices and procedures necessary to disable machinery or equipment to prevent the release of hazardous energy.”

I hope this helps even one employer to address this major safety issue.
Construction Safety Elements (OSHA10) - Dec. 5-6—8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. both days
OSHA Recordkeeping Half-day Workshop—Dec. 8th—8:30 a.m.-noon
Violence in the Workplace—Dec. 8th—1:00—4:30 p.m.
First Aid in the Workplace—Dec. 13—8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Emergency Preparedness Planning—Jan. 11—8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Industry Safety Elements (OSHA 10) - Jan. 23-24—8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. both days

Christmas will be here before you know it! The Stark County Safety Council will once again be collecting new, unwrapped toys at the December 10th Safety Council luncheon. Over the years our members have joined forces with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program to provide children less fortunate experience the joy of Christmas. We encourage you to get all get all of your employees and co-workers involved in this extremely worthy cause. Let’s fill this year’s truck again!

Thank You!

Thank you to all of our 2016 Spotlight Companies! Being a Spotlight Company gives your business good exposure and helps the SCSC. If your company is interested in being a Spotlight Company for 2017, please contact Connie Cerny at connie@cantonchamber.org.

Coming Next Month
January 12, 2017
“Marijuana: Fact or Fiction? Is It Here to Stay?”
Gust Callas, Attorney at Law
Partner, Black, McCusky, Souers & Arbaugh

2017 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo
Save the Date
March 8-10, 2017