

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas. Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the most common types of gas poisoning. When carbon monoxide comes in contact with the blood, the gas prevents the blood from obtaining its normal oxygen supply. Death from asphyxia results if a large enough quantity of carbon monoxide is inhaled.

Symptoms: dizziness, headache, weakness, shortness of breath, and possibly nausea and then unconsciousness. The skin becomes pink in color.

Emergency treatment: consists of opening doors and windows, turning off the source of the gas, if possible. The person should be helped to get fresh air. Call emergency help immediately.

Prevention: includes taking precautions for proper ventilation for working and sleeping areas. Avoid leaving an automobile engine running in a closed garage. Stoves and furnaces should be kept in good repair. Burners using gas, especially in a bedroom, should have a ventilator pipe to carry the exhaust to the outside.