CPSC Warns of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Hazard with Camping Equipment

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) warns consumers about the carbon monoxide (CO) hazard with camping equipment.

CO can kill you!

From 2002–2006, CPSC estimates that 25 people died from carbon monoxide poisoning associated with camping equipment, including grills, lanterns, and stoves.

- Do not use portable heaters or lanterns while sleeping in enclosed areas such as tents, campers, and other vehicles. This is especially important at high altitudes, where the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning is increased.
- Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness, and confusion. Carbon monoxide reduces the blood's ability to carry oxygen. Low blood oxygen levels can result in loss of consciousness and death.
- See a doctor if you or a member of your family develops cold or flu-like symptoms while camping. Carbon monoxide poisoning, which can easily be mistaken for a cold or flu, is often detected too late.
- Alcohol consumption and drug use may compromise the ability to recognize symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Carbon monoxide is especially toxic to the unborn child of a pregnant mother, infants, the elderly, smokers, and people with blood or circulatory system problems, such as anemia or heart disease.

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