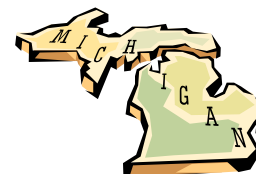# Camping & Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Michigan has a lot of the "great outdoors" - hiking, canoeing, fishing and more. With so much to do and explore, it's no wonder that camping is a favorite pastime for many Michigan residents. When you are outside, you need to protect yourself and your family from the dangers of carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is found in the exhaust of generators, grills and camp stoves, lanterns and other common camping equipment.

What Is Carbon Monoxide?
Carbon monoxide (also known as CO) can be deadly to humans and pets, even in small amounts, because it blocks oxygen from entering your body and can lead to death in a very short time. It is an odorless, tasteless and invisible gas, and you may be exposed without knowing, which is why carbon monoxide is sometimes called "the silent killer."

To protect yourself:

- **DO NOT** ride in covered pickup truck beds (campers, canopies). The exhaust can be drawn in as air moves around the vehicle.

- **DO NOT** sleep in a tent or trailer with a gas or kerosene-burning space heater unless it is permanently installed and properly vented.

- **DO NOT** ever cook or heat with a gas or charcoal grill or camp stove inside a tent or trailer – even if the windows and doors are open.

- **DO NOT** use a generator too close to your campsite or others' sites. Keep it far from windows, doors, tents and air intakes on campers. Use an extra long extension cord to power the items you wish to use.

- **BE AWARE** that alcohol increases the effects of carbon monoxide.

> **DO NOT ignore symptoms. You could DIE within minutes if you do nothing.**
> **Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room as quickly as possible if you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning.**

Additional Camping &
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Resources

Consumer Product and Safety Commission
http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/5008.html

National Agricultural Safety Database
http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d000701-d000800/d000766/d000766.html