



Ice Fishing & Carbon Monoxide Poisoning



Michigan's anglers are a unique crowd. Whether braving the heat in the height of summer or sub-zero temperatures in the middle of winter, Michigan residents can be found, fishing pole in hand, on Michigan's many lakes and rivers throughout the year.

Since the focus is on catching fish and having fun, it's often easy to forget some important safety issues, such as protecting yourself and others with you from hidden dangers such as carbon monoxide poisoning.

What Is Carbon Monoxide?

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

To protect yourself:

- If you are ice fishing, remember that fuel-burning heaters give off carbon monoxide.

DO read the instructions that come with your heater to be sure you are using it correctly inside your shanty.

- **DO NOT** use a grill inside your shanty – for cooking or heating. Carbon monoxide is produced by burning charcoal, wood, or gas.



- **DO NOT** sleep or ride in a camper on a moving truck. The exhaust, another source of carbon monoxide, can be drawn into camper.
- **DO NOT** use a portable heater inside your camper unless it is properly vented. The manual that comes with your heater will provide instructions for venting the fumes.

- When you are in an enclosed space, **DO** pay attention to flu-like symptoms, especially if more than one person has them. Headache, dizziness, confusion, fatigue and feeling sick to your stomach are all common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.

- **DO** know that alcohol increases the dangers 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.