

# **Egg Harbor Fire Department and First Responders Standard Operating Guidelines**

**SUBJECT:** CARBON MONOXIDE INCIDENTS

**SOG 806**

**PURPOSE:** To establish a standard response to alarms of elevated levels of carbon monoxide. (CO).

**SCOPE:** This policy shall apply to all members of the Egg Harbor Fire Department at incidents of elevated levels of CO gas.

**RESPONSIBILITY:**

It shall be the responsibility of the Incident Commander or Safety Officer to see that this guideline is enforced.

**TERMS AND DEFINITIONS:**

Carbon monoxide (CO): A colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is a byproduct of the fuel burning process. Effects of exposure to CO are dependent on the concentration and length of exposure. Symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, nausea, fatigue, and dizziness. Death may result at high levels of exposure.

**GUIDELINE:**

1. Appropriate and protective clothing shall be worn at CO incidents. SCBA shall be used in any atmosphere in excess of 35 parts per million (PPM).
2. Exposure levels.
  - A. The occupational safety and health administration (OSHA) has established a maximum safe working level for CO at 35 PPM over an eight-hour period in the general workplace.
  - B. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established that residential levels are not to exceed 9 PPM over an eight hour period.
  - C. Monitor O<sup>2</sup> levels. Levels lower than 20.8 PPM indicates another gas present. Unacceptable readings are 19.5 PPM and lower.
3. Carbon Monoxide Investigation Process:
  - A. Utilize INCIDENT CHECKLIST.
  - B. Zero the monitoring instrument in fresh air and comply with the start-up procedure.
  - C. At readings greater than 9 PPM, but less than 100 PPM: shall be considered above normal readings and potentially dangerous. Evaluate & ventilate.
  - D. At readings of 100 PPM or greater, a potentially lethal level, immediately order evacuation of premises. Ventilate and investigate.
  - E. Complete DETECTOR ACTIVATION form.

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