

Deaths From CARBON MONOXIDE Poisoning

North Carolina, 2015

In 2015, **6** people died from unintentional, non-fire related carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning in North Carolina.

The victims ranged in age from **27** to **85**.

EXPOSURE SOURCES

All but one of the victims were **male**.

Portable generator

2 deaths

Vehicle

2 deaths

Forklift

1 death

Unknown source

1 death

One death
(17%) was
work related.

DEATHS PER SEASON

Summer - 3 Deaths

Fall - 1 Death

Winter - 2 Deaths



Half of deaths (50%) occurred during the summer.

Most of the deaths were caused by **operating fuel-burning devices in an enclosed area without adequate ventilation**.

NARRATIVES

DEATHS RELATED TO VEHICLES:

- A 53-year-old man died from CO poisoning in his garage from exposure to CO from his running vehicle.
- A 28-year-old man died from CO poisoning in the woods from exposure to CO from his running vehicle after it got stuck in the mud while he was four-wheeling.

DEATHS RELATED TO OTHER FUEL-BURNING APPLIANCES BEING USED INDOORS:

- A 50-year-old man and a 27-year old woman died from CO poisoning while using a gas-powered generator to heat their home.
- An 85-year-old man died from CO poisoning while working on a propane-powered forklift in a hydraulic shop.

DEATHS RELATED TO AN UNKNOWN SOURCE:

- A 79-year-old man died from complications of CO poisoning.

Notes: Unintentional, non-fire related CO poisoning deaths were identified using death certificate data provided by the N.C. State Center for Health Statistics (ICD-10 code X47 listed as underlying cause of death and T58 listed as a contributing cause of death) and confirmed using autopsy, investigative, and toxicology reports provided by the N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.



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