



National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Policy Position on Carbon Monoxide Monitors

Date: September 10, 2007
Committee: Boats & Associated Equipment

Background

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless, tasteless, and highly toxic gas produced by boat engines, generators, and stoves. Even with the best of boat design and construction, and scrupulous attention to inspection, operation and maintenance of boat systems, hazardous levels of CO may, under certain conditions, be present in interior spaces and exterior areas.

Some boaters are aware that CO can accumulate inside engine compartments, but few understand that the gas can pool in deadly concentrations outside the boat as well -- around engine and generator exhaust outlets, under and around swim platforms, and even in an open cabin when conditions are right.

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Policy

Amid growing evidence that carbon monoxide-related illnesses, injuries, and fatalities on the water may be far greater than reported, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators urges boaters maintain vigilant observation of passengers for CO sickness symptoms. NASBLA also believes that this observation should be supplemented by a marine CO detection device in a vessel's accommodation space.

Policy References

American Boat & Yacht Council TH-22 Educational Information about Carbon Monoxide
U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Circular 84 - Carbon Monoxide Poisoning, What You Can't
See Can Harm You

Policy Letters

None associated with this issue.