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## **BOATING SAFETY CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING**

Canvas enclosures and cabin spaces



Blocked exhaust outlets



Fumes from neighbouring boats



"Station wagon" effect or backdrafting at low speeds



Swim platforms



On July 1<sup>st</sup> 2017, several people on a vessel in Vancouver Harbour were overcome by Carbon monoxide (CO) and had to be rushed to waiting ambulances by the North Vancouver RCMP and other SAR vessels. In preparation for the upcoming Celebration of Lights festival nights in English Bay, boaters are being reminded of the danger CO presents. It is recommended that all vessels be fitted with a CO detector. Boaters should become familiar with what CO is, where it can accumulate, the symptoms and what to do if you suspect CO poisoning is taking place. Do not hesitate to call for help immediately if you suspect CO poisoning occurring –In Canada: 911 for Emergency Services or Ch. 16 VHF/ \*16 cell Phones for Canadian Coast Guard.

## Tips from Transport Canada:

CO is a silent killer and is surprisingly found in open deck areas.

How to Protect Others & Yourself

Maintain fresh air circulation throughout the boat at all times.

Run exhaust blowers whenever the generator is operating.

Never sit, "teak surf," or hang on the back deck or swim platform while the engines or generators are running or the boat is under way.

Never enter areas under swim platforms where exhaust outlets are located unless the area has been properly ventilated.

Although CO can be present without the smell of exhaust fumes, if you smell exhaust fumes, CO is also present. Take immediate action to dissipate these fumes.

Install and maintain CO alarms inside your boat. Do not ignore any alarm. **CO Checklist** 

Make sure you know where CO exhausts are located on your vessel. Educate all guests about the symptoms of CO poisoning and where CO may

## accumulate.

When docked, or rafted with another boat, be aware of exhaust emissions from the other boat(s).

Test the operation of each CO alarm regularly. CO output of 1 inboard boat engine equals over 150 car engines!

\* Early symptoms of CO poisoning include irritated eyes, headache, nausea, weakness, and dizziness. They are often confused with seasickness or intoxication, so those affected may not receive the medical attention they need

