

Carbon Monoxide Gas Can be Threat to Life

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Carbon monoxide poisoning is caused by an invisible and deadly gas that has been a threat to life ever since man first began to cook his meals and heat his closed-in living quarters.

The form of poisoning still results in a number of fatalities every year, most of which occur in the winter months. Eleven incidents of carbon monoxide poisoning, with 14 deaths, were reported in Los Angeles County during the 1960-61 winter season, and all of these incidents occurred either because of a lack of knowledge or because of carelessness.

The burning of any fuel with an insufficient supply of air will result in carbon monoxide whether it comes from cooking stoves, hot water heaters, unvented gas space heaters or other appliances. It may occur when such materials as coal, coke, wood, oil, gasoline or kerosene are burned, and also when a gaseous fuel such as natural or artificial gas is used. Natural gas is the fuel most commonly used in Los Angeles County, and it is free of carbon monoxide; however, if it burns under conditions of incomplete combustion carbon monoxide is formed.

THE POLLUTION of the air with dangerous concentrations of carbon monoxide may also occur when an automobile motor is left running to heat up a car, or when it is kept going in a closed space such as a garage. It may also happen in trailers where butane gas or charcoal braziers are used for cooking or heating.

When carbon monoxide is breathed into the lungs it combines with the hemoglobin of the red blood cells many times faster than oxygen, and the blood is therefore deprived of its ability to carry oxygen to the tissues of the body. When the body cells are no longer supplied with this vital oxygen, internal asphyxiation results.

THE FIRST symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include a feeling of tightness in the head followed by dizziness and headache. As more of the poison is inhaled, nausea and vomiting and mental confusion may occur, and muscular co-ordination, specifically the ability to move, is impaired. Loss of consciousness will follow unless the victim is removed from the environment.

The severity of the symptoms depends to a great extent on the total amount of carbon monoxide that is inhaled. Breathing a little over a long period may be just as serious as a high concentration over a short time. This means that even a seemingly inconsequential concentration of .02 per cent carbon monoxide can be lethal if the exposure is long enough.

Most of the cases of carbon monoxide poisoning that occur in this area are due to the open-flame type of unvented gas heater, and a great many of these are still in use within Los Angeles County. The use of such heaters should be discontinued, and they should be replaced with vented heaters approved by the American Gas Association (AGA) for vented use and effectively vented to the outside air according to the requirements of the building department.

HOWEVER, approval of appliances and their installation means little unless they are properly maintained. All adjustments should be done by the local dealer or gas company representative or by an experienced repairman.

A constant supply of fresh air is a necessity in every room where an unvented heater is burning. It is also advisable even when the appliance is properly vented as the vent pipe may be blocked by leaves

Stamp Club to Meet Monday

The Torrance Stamp Club will hold its last meeting of the year Monday evening, Dec. 11, at 7:30 p.m., in the Community Building at Scott Park, 23410 Catskill Ave., Wilmington.

There will be an auction and a busy evening of swapping stamps is anticipated. Further information can be had by calling Harold Schultz.

New Pen & Quill Hotel To Open in Mid-January

A new approach to pleasure and business accommodations will be presented when the Pen & Quill Hotel in Manhattan Beach is formally unveiled in mid-January.

Bob Reuben, president, reports that construction is progressing on schedule on the \$2,000,000 project, which will offer the finest and most diversified facilities of any business-resort hotel in Southern California.

Attesting to this promise is Neil R. Messick, general manager and vice president, who

announces a number of new features are being incorporated into the Pen & Quill Hotel.

IN KEEPING with its catch phrase, "where world travelers meet," the suites will be named after their international decor: Oriental, Nordic, Caribbean, Mediterranean, Pacific and European. The dramatic facade is being constructed of black marble and glass, while the basic interior color scheme will be gold, black and orange.

The three-story, 200-room hotel is being insulated with lightweight concrete and fiberglass. Individual wall-mounted light controls are being installed. Another new concept in guest convenience is a newly developed communication control and message-waiting interphone system.

REUBEN REVEALS that material from a dozen countries is being used in construction, including tiles from Japan, marble from Italy and mahogany imported from

Honduras. Multi-colored lights will illuminate the 3,000-sq.-ft. swimming pool.

The overhead promenade, bridging the street to connect the hotel with the Pen & Quill Restaurant, will be 110 feet long and 20 feet wide. "More steel is being used in this promenade," divulges Reuben, "than was used in the freeway bridges!"

MESSICK discloses that elegant Oxford-Kent furniture is being created for the public areas, which will also display

the world theme in various ways, and guest rooms will contain antique-white, marble-topped, custom-designed furniture. Oversized extra-length beds will be featured in rooms and suites, which will also be decorated with original oil paintings.

"In addition to existing facilities in the restaurant, the hotel will house deluxe private meeting and banquet rooms," says Messick. "There will be two executive dining rooms, a junior ballroom to accommodate 200 persons or less, and the grand ballroom or convention hall."

The latter, which can be

divided into three separate areas, will accommodate 700 persons. Marble panels and a giant nine-foot chandelier will underscore the elegance of this function room, which international theme will be suggested by huge murals dividing the hemisphere into four decorative global sections.

Gage C. Enoch, fireman apprentice, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carrol K. Enoch of 2415 Summit Rd., is serving aboard the heavy cruiser USS Los Angeles, now on duty with the Seventh Fleet in the Western Pacific.

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