

## Carbon Monoxide in Confined Space

### WHAT HAPPENED

A night-shift worker, assigned to hole watch a welding project in a confined space, recorded elevated levels of carbon monoxide on an air monitor. The workers in the confined space were evacuated immediately and without incident. It was determined that the carbon monoxide levels were due to nighttime atmospheric conditions which drew exhaust from several nearby welding machines into the confined space. After the welding machines were repositioned, the confined space was allowed to purge with fresh air until it was safe for reentry.



### CAUSAL FACTORS

The location of welding machines, along with nighttime atmospheric conditions, caused carbon monoxide fumes to be drawn into a nearby confined space.

### PREVENTIVE MEASURES

1. Prior to entering a confined space, inspect nearby work areas to determine if other activities or equipment could affect the breathability of the space.
2. Utilize confined space hole watch attendants and proper air monitoring equipment.
3. Be cognizant of nighttime atmospheric conditions and how they can affect ventilation and air quality.



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