



Dear Race Fan,

Camping while attending an event at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway can add to the event experience in many ways. To help make sure your experience is a safe one, the Marion County Public Health Department has prepared this brief guide explaining both the hazards of carbon monoxide and steps you can take to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning when camping.

Carbon monoxide gas is invisible, odorless, and deadly. It is produced by the partial combustion of solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels. This includes gasoline, propane, natural gas, oil, wood, and charcoal. Hundreds of people die each year from carbon monoxide poisoning and thousands go to emergency rooms for treatment.

Carbon monoxide poisoning when camping usually results from:

- Exhaust system leaks from either a vehicle engine or a generator
- Improper use of portable gas powered heaters
- Someone else's vehicle or generator when camping in close quarters
- Malfunctioning or unvented LP gas appliances

If your recreational vehicle or trailer (RV) does not have a carbon monoxide detector, purchase a carbon monoxide detector designed for use in RVs. If you use a generator when tent camping, purchase a portable, battery operated carbon monoxide detector. Make sure to test the carbon monoxide detector every time you go camping, to use the detector in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and to replace the batteries regularly.

To protect yourself against carbon monoxide poisoning, the Marion County Public Health Department recommends the following precautions when camping.

- Do not sleep in a tent or RV with a gas or kerosene-burning space heater unless it is permanently installed and properly vented
- Do not cook or heat with a gas or charcoal grill or camp stove inside a tent or RV, even if the windows and doors are open
- Inspect the vehicle and/or generator exhaust system before each use
- Keep generators far from your campsite or other's sites by using an extra-long extension cord of the correct wire gauge
- Do not use generators close to windows, doors, tents, and RV air intakes
- Follow all safety precautions and warnings for fuel burning equipment

Teach everybody at your campsite how to recognize carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide symptoms are very similar to flu symptoms and include:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Weakness
- Upset Stomach
- Vomiting
- Chest Pain
- Confusion

If you or anyone else experiences any of these symptoms get fresh air immediately and seek medical attention.

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