

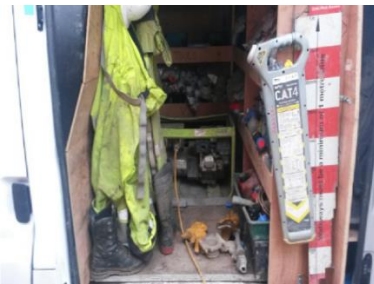


Mobile Generators

Contractors exposed to harmful levels of Carbon Monoxide



Generator stored underneath hatch (not open at the time of the incident)



In the last three months, five of our contractor colleagues (three from AMEY and two from Gallaghers) have come close to losing their lives by using mobile generators in unsuitable locations.

The first incident occurred in Waste Water, involving the use of a portable generator to power tools for breaking out concrete in a pub cellar.

After some time, one of the operatives left the basement feeling unwell and an ambulance was called. The cellar was ventilated but after 45 mins, gas monitors were still reading 80% Carbon Monoxide (CO.).

The second incident occurred in Water, again involving the use of a portable generator to pump out an excavation which was continually flooded by a leaking main.

The generator, which was inside their vehicle, was left running to keep the road free of water. The Gallaghers night team got into the van whilst waiting for a 2nd team and NCIs to rezone the area. They were found unconscious when the day team arrived to assist them.

Further information:

We need to make sure this doesn't happen again – all five of these people are lucky to be alive.

We will share the outcome of the investigations, but in the meantime, ensure your teams are aware of these incidents and of the following:

- Generators produce harmful gases, including Carbon Monoxide, which can kill;
- These gases are invisible, do not have a smell, and affect your senses so you don't actually know you are breathing them in;
- Generators must not be used or left running in an enclosed space, for example inside buildings or vehicles.

Issued to: Water (Network and Process); Wastewater (Network and Process) Programme Services
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Email the Health & Safety mailbox on Outlook for any additional information or guidance.

Spotted a hazard or near miss? Need to report a security incident or accident? DON'T WALK BY! Call AIRline 01925 (2) 37111