

# L.A. SOUND BIGHT

A **bight** is a length of rope that does not cross itself. Knots tied without use of the working end are called knots *on the bight*.

## Awareness Items

Many who are overcome by CO fumes slip silently beneath the water. Wearing a life jacket provides a better chance of being saved.

## Check Your Boat:

- Make sure exhaust hose ends are double clamped and securely in place.
- Look for exhaust leaking from exhaust system components, indicated by rust and/or black streaking, water leaks, or corroded or cracked fittings.
- Inspect rubber exhaust hoses for burned or cracked sections.
- Confirm that water flows from the exhaust outlet when the engines are started.
- Listen for any change in exhaust sound that could indicate an exhaust component failure.

*"Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning: Avoiding Common Mistakes Can Save Lives"* by Louis Novak, U.S.Coast Guard

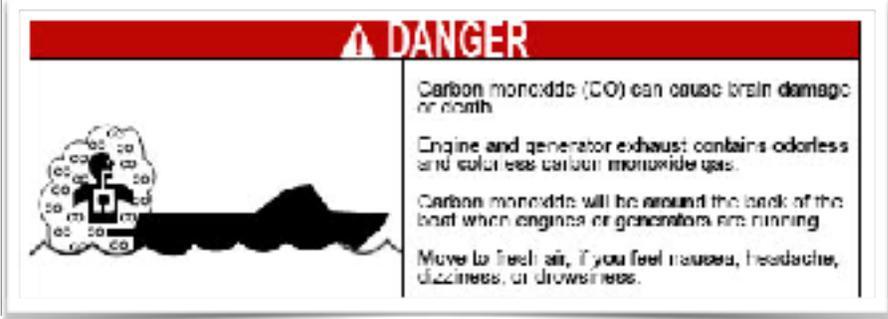


## Carbon Monoxide: The Silent Killer

**Carbon Monoxide (CO)** is an invisible, odorless, tasteless gas that is produced when a carbon-based fuel burns. CO can make you sick in seconds. In high enough concentrations, even a few breaths can be fatal. Sources of CO on your boat may include gasoline engines, gas generators, cooking ranges, and heaters. Natural air flows can suck fumes forward onto the vessel.

### Early Symptoms of CO Poisoning

Early symptoms of CO poisoning include irritated eyes, headache, nausea, weakness, and dizziness. They often are confused with seasickness or intoxication. Move anyone with these symptoms to fresh air immediately. Seek medical attention - unless you're sure it's not CO. Knowing how to spot and avoid dangerous situations can help save lives.



### CO Poisoning Situations:

**Station Wagon Effect** causes CO to accumulate inside the cockpit if you are operating the boat at a high bow angle, improperly loaded, if there is an opening that draws in exhaust, or if protective coverings are used when the vessel is under way.



**Teak Surfing** or dragging or water skiing within 20 feet of a moving vessel can be fatal. If persons are using a swim platform or are close to the stern, all gasoline-powered generators with transom exhaust ports must be off.



**Blocked Exhaust Outlets** can cause CO to accumulate in the cockpit area.



### Protect Yourself Against CO Poisoning While Boating

- ◆ Allow fresh air to circulate throughout the boat at all times, even during bad weather.
- ◆ Know where your engine and generator exhaust outlets are located and keep everyone away from these areas.
- ◆ Never sit on the back deck, “teak surf,” or hang on the swim platform while the engines are running.
- ◆ Never enter areas under swim platforms where exhaust outlets are located - even for a second. One or two breaths in this area could be fatal.
- ◆ Ventilate immediately if exhaust fumes are detected on the boat.

Boat Ed at: [www.boat-ed.com/pennsylvania/studyGuide/CO-Poisoning-Symptoms-Protection-and-Tips/101039\\_101039201/](http://www.boat-ed.com/pennsylvania/studyGuide/CO-Poisoning-Symptoms-Protection-and-Tips/101039_101039201/)

**AVOID THESE DEATH ZONES:**

THE REAR DECK and the areas surrounding it can quickly build up gases while the engine or generator is running...  
**Never leave a vessel idling!**

**SWIM PLATFORMS** can easily trap gas in areas in and around exhaust vents. NEVER enter an enclosed area under a swim platform - not even for a second.  
It only takes one or two breaths of carbon monoxide for it to be fatal.

**TEAK SURFING**, dragging or water skiing within 20 feet of a moving motorcraft can be fatal. SITTING on the rear swim step while the engine is running should NEVER be permitted.

Do not confuse poisoning with sea-sickness, intoxication or heat stress...  
If someone on board complains of irritated eyes, headache, nausea, weakness or dizziness, immediately move the person to fresh air and seek medical attention.

Don't forget to vent! - your boat should be at least 50' from another boat running a generator or engine... And please refrain at least a 20' distance when water skiing, water skiing or tubing.