



Knocked out by CO

Carbon monoxide (CO) emitted by faulty tiled stoves and gas boilers can cause fatal poisoning if it accumulates in a room and is inhaled. A recent BfR survey shows how well known this risk is to the population.

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99%

know about blocked tiled stove vents or chimney flues

Risk situations

Most were aware of situations in which carbon monoxide poisoning could occur. There are gaps in knowledge when it comes to smoking shisha pipes and storing wood pellets.

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89%

know about defective gas-operated devices



59%

know about smoking shisha pipes in enclosed spaces



20%

know about incorrectly storing wood pellets

Underlying study:

Representative telephone survey of 1,012 people (German-speaking population in Germany aged 14 and above) from February to March 2019

More information:

Jungnickel, K. et al. 2019. Carbon monoxide - an underestimated risk? Awareness, perception, knowledge and prevention behaviour. Bundesgesundheitsbl. 62: 11, 1324–1331

How do you notice CO?

Almost everyone knows that carbon monoxide emissions can be detected through the alarm of a carbon monoxide detector as well as through headaches, dizziness or nausea. However, more than a third of respondents were under some misapprehensions:



44%

believe you can smell carbon monoxide



41%

believe smoke detectors sound the alarm when carbon monoxide is present in the surrounding air

Icon made by Smashicons (nose) and Freepik (smoke detector) from www.flaticon.com



Familiar problem

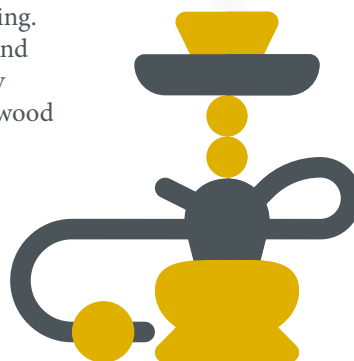
Eighty-two percent of respondents have heard of carbon monoxide poisoning before.

Little knowledge about prevention

Only 9 percent named installing a carbon monoxide detector, and only 8 percent named the regular inspection of heating units, tiled stoves or fireplaces as protective measures. A fresh air supply was mentioned most frequently. Thirteen percent of respondents did not know any protective measures.

Vulnerable groups

Those who own “risky devices” usually know about the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. The exception are owners of shisha pipes and respondents with wood pellet heaters; only 38 percent know that CO emissions from wood pellets can lead to poisoning.



33%

of respondents who own a shisha pipe do not know the risk of smoking shisha pipes in enclosed spaces.

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