

21. Carbon Monoxide Exposure

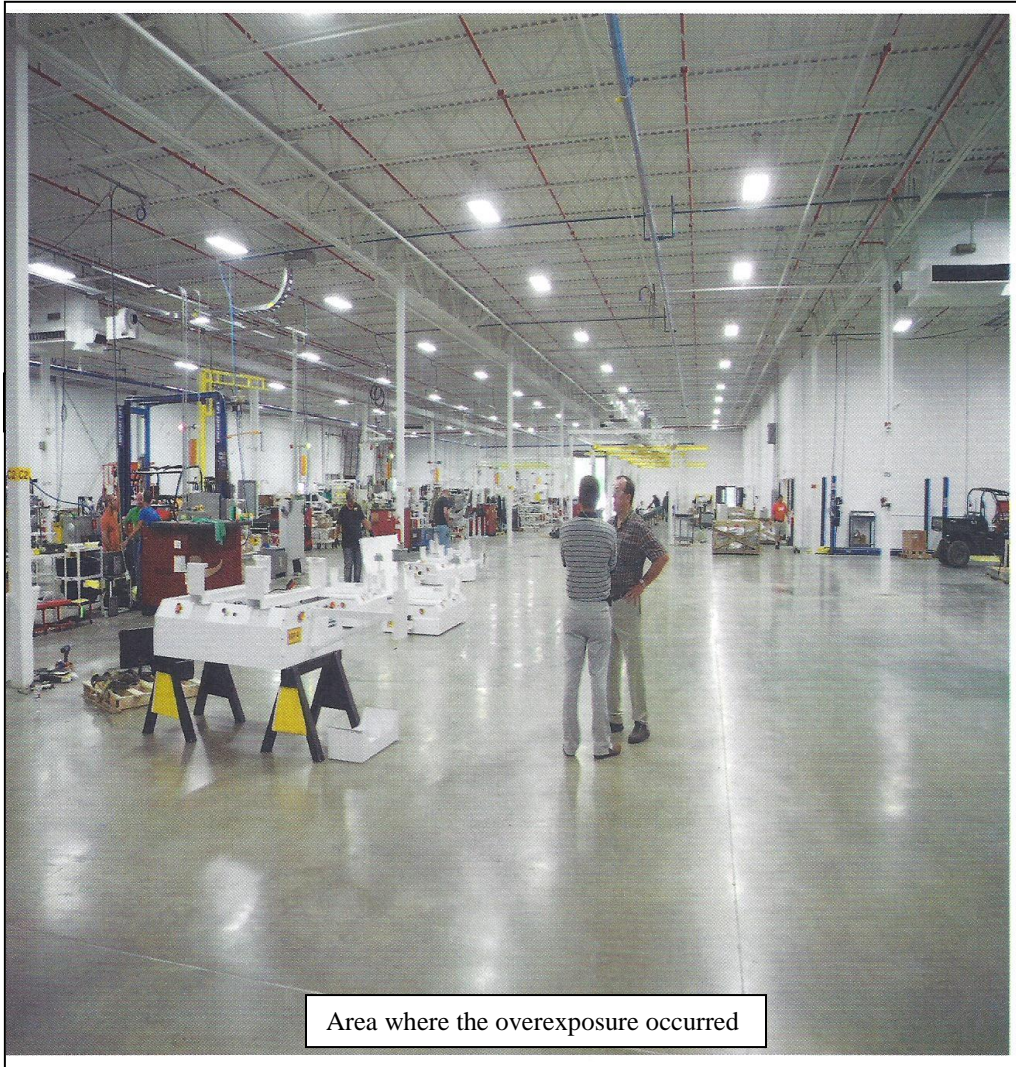
Eight employees of a manufacturing facility were overexposed to carbon monoxide. A new production line was being installed in a recently purchased building. The new production line was planned to manufacture utility vehicles and zero turn lawn mowers. On the day of the incident, maintenance, repair and installation was being conducted in the new building in preparation for the new manufacturing line. A propane-powered forklift, propane welder, propane-powered scissor lift, propane-powered tire machine and a utility vehicle were all operating in the building. A ventilation system for the area had not been installed yet but was planned. About 50 employees were in the building. At the end of the day, several employees began feeling ill and eight of them went to the emergency room and were admitted to the hospital for treatment. The employees were placed on oxygen for about 12 hours. Carboxyhemoglobin levels were determined for each employee and indicated that they were exposed to high levels of carbon monoxide several hours earlier. All employees were released from the hospital the next day.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

Citation 1

Item 1a TDLWD Rule 0800-1-1-.07(2)(b)1	Employees were exposed to an airborne concentration of carbon monoxide listed in Table Z-1-A in excess of 200 parts per million parts of air as a five-minute Short-Term Exposure Limit.
Item 1b TDLWD Rule 0800-1-1-.07(2)(d)	Feasible administrative or engineering controls were not determined and implemented to achieve compliance with the limits prescribed in 0800-1-1-.07(2)(b) and (c).
Item 2a 1910.1200(h)(1)	Employees were not provided information and training on hazardous chemicals in their work area at the time of their initial assignment and whenever a new hazard was introduced into their work area.
Item 2b 1910.1200(h)(2)(iii)	The employer did not provide information to the employees as to the location and availability of the written hazard communication program and material safety data sheets required.
Item 2c 1910.1200(h)(3)(iii)	Employee training did not include the measures employees can take to protect themselves from chemical hazards; including specific procedures the employer had implemented to protect employees from exposure to hazardous chemicals.
Item 2d TDLWD Rule 0800-01-09-.06(2)	The employer did not ensure that work areas in which non-containerized hazardous chemicals are generated or produced as a result of the process or operation taking place in such work area contain a sign or placard identifying the hazardous chemicals and appropriate hazard warnings.

See Photo on Next Page



Area where the overexposure occurred