

Safety Bulletin No. 02/2017

USE OF FUEL POWERED EQUIPMENT IN ENCLOSED SPACES

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Applicable to	All Employees using fuel powered equipment

Two incidents have occurred where fumes and raised levels of carbon monoxide have developed when fuel powered equipment has been sited and used in enclosed space. In the first a mobile generator was running inside a loading bay and in the second, petrol powered cutting equipment was being used inside a room at Frederick Road. In both cases the equipment was being used as part of a fault restoration or repair.

An additional concern with both of these incidents was that the staff involved were unaware of the risks and in one case dust masks were being worn as it was thought this would stop exposure to fumes.

Key Points to Remember:

- Inhalation of fumes can cause irritation to the eyes or respiratory tract. In extreme cases carbon monoxide fumes can kill.
- All persons involved in the use of powered equipment must have access to and be familiar with the manufacturer's instructions and recommendations for safe use of this equipment.
- An assessment must be made when arriving on site to consider all hazards present and the controls required to reduce the risk.
- The risk assessment should consider the working environment ensuring the most suitable location is identified to site powered equipment including generators so not to pose a risk to those in the surrounding area.
- Additional cabling may be required to enable generators to be located in a safe, well ventilated location. The required length of cable should be identified and can be sourced direct from Generator Power.



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