

Truck driver overcome by carbon monoxide

POTENTIALLY SERIOUS INCIDENT

Description:

Shortly after a fuel leak on a semi-trailer truck was repaired at a dealership, the driver noticed it was leaking again. While en route to the dealership to get it fixed, the driver was unaware that fuel was leaking on the exhaust manifold. The driver was overcome as the A/C system pumped carbon monoxide from the burning fuel into the cabin and struck a parked car in the dealership parking lot. The driver did not realize the degree of incapacitation until the attempt to exit the truck and the individual recognized at what degree the motor functions were diminished.

Lessons Learned:

- This event could have had serious and even fatal implications.
- The driver was unable to walk without falling and had nearly lost the ability to speak. The driver was taken to the hospital by ambulance and remained there for 12 hours.
- The individual believed themselves having a medical episode of some sort and never suspected carbon monoxide.

Resources:

- [Government of Canada: Air Quality and Health](#)
- [CVSA's New 2020 North America Standard Out-of-Service Criteria](#)



CCTV-captured this video footage as the truck struck a parked car and shortly before smoke erupted from the engine area.

What did they learn? What were the recommendations:

- When the truck was backed up after striking the parked car, smoke erupted from the hood indicating significant problems with the engine.
- Pre-trip inspections should include checking for fluid leaks as well as exhaust leaks. Exhaust leaks are often signified by soot at or near a connection.
- The vehicle was taken out of service as per the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) - 2020 North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria (OOSC) inspection. This standard identifies critical safety violations that stipulate a vehicle be taken out of service until the condition or violation is corrected or repaired.
- If an individual recognizes he/she is experiencing a medical episode, it is vitally important to safely pull the vehicle over, stop and seek aid, either by calling 9-1-1 or an area-specific emergency number.

Help industry by sharing learnings from an incident. [Submit your Safety Alert.](#)

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