

Lessons Learned



— MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS —

Date: 3/24/2021

Region: Seattle

Project: Microsoft Campus Refresh

Incident Title: CO Monitoring

Summary

Trade partners in an underground parking garage were working adjacent to an Apollo Confined Space with a CO producing Georgia Buggy (seen right). The buggy set off the CO monitor, and the Apollo workers did not enter the confined space until no CO producing equipment was in the area.



What Went Right?

- Workers using the CO gas monitor for a confined space noticed a rise in CO, and immediately stopped work
- General Contractor was notified, and ordered propane Georgia Buggies to stop operating the equipment

What Went Wrong?

- Any CO producing equipment needs to be a safe distance from confined spaces

Lessons Learned

- The CDC estimates that approximately 400 people die from unintentional CO exposure in the United States every year. Concentration of the gas can build up, and humans cannot detect the odorless, colorless gas, until it's too late.
- Before entering a Confined Space, inspect the surrounding area for any trade partners that could be producing a hazardous atmosphere, and ensure that hazardous atmospheres won't be produced while Apollo workers are performing confined space work.