

Clampco Clips

January 2018

Happy New Year!

The Safety Corner

Winter is starting to approach. Soon it will be time to start up your furnace. Along with that comes a dramatic increase in calls to local Fire Departments regarding Carbon Monoxide (CO). This story is from one of our employees and is 2 years old now, but still worth reading and the reminder:

Last Thursday evening about 9:30 p.m. Sara and I are sitting downstairs watching CSI. The three boys are upstairs in bed. Suddenly we hear this loud chirping sound coming from upstairs. Smoke detector? No, the sound wasn't right. Well the boys came charging down as I'm on my way up to see what it is. I discovered at the top of the stairs it was our Carbon Monoxide (CO) detector going off. Hmm, that has never happened before.

It's reading 130 on the display and I think it's just gone nuts. I unplug it and bring it downstairs and plug it into the kitchen. Well, soon enough it's reading 117 downstairs. I'm again thinking it's just an older unit that has gone wild. But what the heck let me call someone and get another opinion.

I decided to call the administrative line to the Fire Department (no way I was going to call 911 over a bum detector) and an officer picks up the phone. I explain the situation to him and ask him if 130 is normal? He says, no sir, get out of the house and we'll be right over.

So we get on our shoes and coats and head out the door. We put the kids with some blankets into the car parked out in the driveway so they can be warm. Soon enough a police officer comes (no siren thank goodness) and then the Fire Engine. I explain the situation to the fire fighters and they grab a portable CO meter from their truck. I escort two of them into the house. We got about 3 ft. in the door and their meter display turned red and the fire fighter loudly said, OK, everyone back out now.

Course, now I'm thinking, Oh My.

They proceed to put on their oxygen tanks and masks and head back into the house. They called more trucks to the house because they are required to have more people there in case the guys entering the house have to be rescued themselves.

They were in there for about 15 minutes and took readings throughout the house. In the 15 minutes it took, the levels had escalated from 130 ppm upstairs to 288 ppm of CO. They believe the source was the gas furnace or hot water heater according to the readings and shut down both down. They opened up all the windows in the house and it took about 40 minutes for the CO levels to get back to where it needed to be to go back in. Well, we decided to hit a hotel for that night.

The bottom line is this. We had a CO detector and it worked. Had we not had that detector and gone to bed that evening then my entire family and I would have died in our beds overnight from the CO. CO is odorless, tasteless, and lighter than air and kills hundreds if not thousands each year. The master bedroom had the highest readings.

If you don't have a CO detector in your home and you have natural gas or propane burning appliance (dryers, furnace, stove, oven, hot water heater, etc) please get one. Not tomorrow, but right now. Most stores like Meijer, Target, Wal-Mart all sell them.

The presence of a CO detector in our house saved my family's life. Make sure it has an opportunity to save yours.

Article from: <http://safetytoolboxtopics.com/Seasonal/carbon-monoxide-story.html>

– **Matt Olszewski, Safety Director**

A Note from the desk of: Jason Venner

Happy New Year! I can't believe that 2017 is in the books already. Needless to say, this past year was quite challenging, but it brought Clampco to new places. The management team has recently been taking an extra look at Clampco's strategic positioning within our market as we gear up for yet more increases with program and single order custom manufacturing. Buckle up for another great year!

Through the launch of the NITRO program, and others like it that service high volume customers, we've proven a lot to our customers, but also ourselves! I cannot stress enough that while my parents and I remain cautiously optimistic as we often do 😊 this Company has been blessed with extremely talented and mindful individuals who are just as interested in working to keep Clampco what it has always been.

The New Year had certainly brought with it the bite of winter, and this morning as I write this, the rain/snow is wreaking its usual havoc on our daily commutes. Take your time when driving when the snow flies. We'll do our best to have the parking lot and walkways cleared and salted, but please do be careful walking between cars in the lot. Quite often, these are spots where ice likes to hide.

I wanted to thank everyone who participated in the survey at the end of the year. Your honest and candid feedback will help us to drive continuous improvement, particularly with regard to the Company's group health insurance. I understand that Anthem's plans have been met with very mixed reviews, and I've honestly had some negative experiences with it myself, both on the coverage and banking sides of the coin with Optum Bank. Renewal in June will be here before we know it, so again, thank you for the feedback as it is both timely and helpful.

Some quick items before parting:

- Sexual harassment in the workplace was brought to the forefront in late 2017, and will continue to be an important topic and issue. We take this seriously, and expect to see more training on this as we progress into 2018. Issues can be brought to us through a Manager/Supervisor, the suggestion box or by contacting Human Resources.
- Your customary W-2 forms will be arriving shortly so that you can begin filing your tax returns. These should arrive mid-January. Your pay stubs will also help when doing your own taxes or when providing information to a tax professional.
- The "Tax Cuts & Jobs Act" will do away with the mandate to have health insurance, however, this won't take effect until 2019. You will still receive the 1095-C form from me as well as documentation from Medical Mutual and Anthem of your proof of coverage for 2017, and most likely for 2018 as well. These forms are reflective of the Affordable Care Act's mandate for all individuals to have health insurance.
- A first glance take of the bill itself indicates there will be less personal and corporate taxes, however, many deductions are being done away with or they are being increased or decreased. You may also have questions regarding what to claim on your Federal and State W-4 forms, but Melissa and I cannot offer that type of advice and your best bet is to consult with a tax professional. Everyone's situation is different.
- Now is the time to begin saving money for the future. If you haven't enrolled with Clampco's 401k plan, please don't hesitate to ask myself or Melissa.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT QUESTION

If you would be interested in volunteering, what would it be? _____
