CO2 Safety In Restaurants, Bars And Private Events Stats and Facts



FACTS

Certainly, here are the hazards of CO2 safety in restaurants, bars, and private events summarized into short points:

- **Asphyxiation Risk:** CO2 buildup can displace oxygen in poorly ventilated spaces, leading to suffocation and potentially death.
- **Acute Health Effects:** Breathing elevated CO2 levels can cause headaches, dizziness, nausea, and confusion, with prolonged exposure increasing the risk of unconsciousness.
- **Increased Fire Hazard:** CO2 accumulation can reduce oxygen levels, raising the risk of fires and hindering combustion support.
- **Equipment Malfunction:** Improper handling or malfunction of CO2-containing equipment can lead to leaks or spills, posing immediate dangers.
- **Lack of Awareness:** Many individuals may not recognize CO2 hazards or symptoms of poisoning, delaying appropriate response measures.
- **Emergency Situations:** Panic or confusion during CO2-related incidents can complicate emergency response efforts, potentially leading to further injuries.

STATS

- While not directly related to CO2, incidents of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning in commercial establishments, including restaurants and bars, are sometimes reported. CO poisoning can occur due to faulty gas appliances, inadequate ventilation, or other factors. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), unintentional CO exposure accounts for an estimated 50,000 emergency department visits annually in the United States.
- In Canada, the safety of carbon dioxide (CO2) in restaurants, bars, and venues is a critical concern, especially since the pandemic. Indoor air quality monitoring guidelines have been added by several states and localities, as indoor CO2 levels can serve as an indicator of overall air quality for customer health and safety. CO2 gas levels above 5% (50,000 ppm) by volume in indoor air can be fatal, making CO2 safety a top concern for any commercial restaurant or bar. Prolonged or concentrated exposure to CO2 can cause death, and it is crucial to be aware of the signs and symptoms of CO2 exposure, as the gas itself is undetectable without proper tools.
- The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry has set workplace safety

standards of 10,000 ppm for an 8-hour period and 30,000 ppm for a 15-minute period. These standards were developed for healthy working adults and may not be appropriate for sensitive populations, such as children and the elderly.