

October 10, 2008

DIRECTIVE: JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 08-19
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TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
 ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
 ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
 ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
 ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
 ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: ESTHER R. JOHNSON, Ed.D.
 National Director
 Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: Best Practices for Preventing Illnesses and Fatalities Caused by Carbon Monoxide Exposure

1. Purpose. To remind Job Corps centers of the importance of continued best practices for preventing illnesses and fatalities caused by exposure to carbon monoxide (CO).
2. Background. In recent years there have been incidents at Job Corps centers in which students and/or staff had been exposed to CO. Following incidents in 2004 and 2006 that resulted in many students being exposed to CO, the National Office of Job Corps encouraged centers to install CO detectors in dormitories and increase efforts to ensure that gas furnaces, hot water heaters, stoves, and other fuel-burning appliances are inspected and properly maintained.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), an average of 170 fatalities occur in the United States each year as a result of CO poisoning. In 2005, following Hurricane Katrina and other severe weather events, there were 94 fatalities associated with gas generators. In 2008, Job Corps centers have been affected by severe weather conditions, which increase the risk of CO exposure incidents. In addition to the potential for more severe weather events such as hurricanes and tornadoes, several parts of the country have already begun to experience cold weather, prompting the use of gas-fueled furnaces and heaters. Therefore, it is important for Job Corps centers to review the best practices for preventing CO exposure outlined in Job Corps Information Notice No. 06-12, Best Practices for Checking Carbon Monoxide Detection.

3. Action. Job Corps centers that use gas-fueled appliances, including gas-powered generators during power outages, should continue to follow the preventive measures outlined in Job Corps Information Notice No. 06-12. Job Corps centers are encouraged to inspect CO

detectors and replace batteries as part of an ongoing nationwide effort to prevent CO-related illnesses and fatalities to coincide with the end of Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, November 2, 2008.

Addressees are to ensure that this Information Notice is distributed to all appropriate staff.

4. Expiration Date. Until superseded.

5. Inquiries. Direct all inquiries to Marsha Fitzhugh at (202) 693-3099 or fitzhugh.marsha@dol.gov, Kelley Clark at (202) 693-3089 or clark.kelley@dol.gov, or Heather Edmonds at (202) 693-3774 or edmonds.heather@dol.gov.