Janitorial Safety Fatality File



JANITOR USING PROPANE BUFFER KILLED BY CARBON MONOXIDE

A 50-year-old male janitor was found dead at a job site where he was cleaning floors with a propane buffer. The janitor had completed all but one room of the 1,500-2,000 sq. ft office building. He was found collapsed and unresponsive about 6 ft from the buffer, which was still running in the idle position. No external doors or windows had been opened to allow ventilation. The janitor was a temporary worker, hired through an agency, and had worked with his current employer for 2½ weeks. The medical examiner discovered a 62% carbon-monoxide saturation level in the victim's blood.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Asphyxiation by inhalation of carbon monoxide and propane exhaust