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It's time for commercial. The argument grows for laws requiring carbon monoxide monitoring at commercial entities

DATELINE: FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

A carbon monoxide leak in the heating system at a Legal Sea Foods in Huntington Station, New York resulted in the death of a restaurant manager, the hospitalization of another staff member and the need for 26 patrons to be treated at a local hospital. While some states do have laws requiring commercial entities to have carbon monoxide detection systems, those regulations only apply to businesses where the customers sleep, e.g. hotels, nursing homes, universities, etc.

“The reality is that it doesn’t take much of a leak to have an impact,” said John V. Carvalho III, president of Apollo Safety, Inc., a veteran-owned, Fall River, Mass.-based company specializing in safety products and services. “Complicating matters even more is that everyone reacts differently to carbon monoxide. Some people fall ill or experience in a fairly short amount of time. For others it can be longer. As was the case at the restaurant, it doesn’t take overnight exposure to carbon monoxide for it to be lethal.”

Carvalho recommends that any commercial or residential building using fossil fuel sources such as oil, propane, and natural gas be equipped with a carbon monoxide detector in the basement or boiler room. He cites this as particularly necessary for heating systems that employ elbow-shaped pipes.

“Elbow pipes can be particularly dangerous when there’s a leak because the shape of the pipe will actually slow the flow of the carbon monoxide and create much greater exposure than a straight pipe,” said Carvalho.

In terms of the types of systems commercial businesses should choose that can vary on the size of the building, the number of people in that building at a given time, etc.

“It’s conceivable that a smaller business could get by with a store-bought, battery-operated carbon monoxide detection system that you would have in your home,” said Carvalho. “Yet when you consider the potential risks and the devastating impact one incident can have on a business—even with no fatalities--it just make sense to take that extra precaution for your customers and staff .”

Apollo Safety’s offerings include a wide variety of portable and stationary gas detection systems suitable for large universities, including name brands like Industrial Scientific, RAE Systems, RKI, and GMI. These systems are available for purchase or rental at weekly or monthly rates. Rental equipment is certified to NIST standards and is guaranteed for the entire rental period.

In addition, Apollo Safety also provides on-site installation and training and 24/7 service. All Apollo Safety technicians are factory-trained and certified. In addition, Apollo offers its own training program, with five levels of certification.

Apollo Safety provides service in a "state of the art" in-house service center, as well as offering on-site support with factory-trained technicians for both portable and stationary gas detection systems. Apollo uses only factory-original parts for repairs and repairs are made exactly to client requirements. Apollo guarantees a 10-day turnaround time with pre-approval, though 66 percent of all repairs are completed in five days or less. Free software upgrades included with all repairs.

For more information on Apollo Safety products and services, please call 800-813-5408 or visit www.apollosafetyproducts.net

About Apollo Safety

Apollo Safety has been serving the safety industry since 1995. Apollo Safety specializes in gas detection products and services for portable and stationary systems. That includes gas detector sales and support for most major brands of gas detection device manufacturers. Apollo Safety also provides service in a "state of the art" in-house service center, as well as offering on-site support with factory-trained technicians for both portable and stationary gas detection systems.

Veteran-owned, Apollo Safety, Inc. is trusted by facilities managers, building owners, landlords, universities, hotels, institutions, and government operations. Apollo Safety is a member of the National Safety Council, Massachusetts Safety Council, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Association (RIAFC) and the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts (FCAM).

Apollo Safety's corporate headquarters is located at 57 Walnut Street in Fall River, Massachusetts. For more information on Apollo Safety products and services, please call 800-813-5408 or visit www.apollosafetyproducts.net .