

# CA STORAGE SAFETY

B Y J . A . B A R T S C H

The oxygen content inside a sealed CA storage room will not support human life. This fact should be clearly displayed at every conceivable CA room entry point. Occasionally persons must enter rooms to gather samples or make repairs and it is imperative that they understand the hazards of these tasks. No one should ever enter or even place their head inside an operating room. Persons have passed out, fallen into the rooms and died just a few feet inside the doorway. Never enter alone, and never open a window or door without having at least one other person who is familiar with CA storage hazards near you. Make sure all employees and co-workers recognize the hazard and understand the meaning of the posted caution and danger signs. Make doubly sure all personnel read and understand the symptoms of asphyxia information printed below. It could save a life!

## SYMPTOMS OF ASPHYXIA

21% OXYGEN:	Standard atmospheric ratio. Breathing, all functions normal.
17% OXYGEN:	A lit candle is no longer able to burn.
16 - 12% OXYGEN:	Breathing increased and pulse rate accelerated. Ability to maintain attention and to think clearly is diminished, but can be restored with effort. Muscular coordination for finer skilled movement is somewhat disturbed.
14 - 10% OXYGEN:	Consciousness continues, but judgement becomes faulty. Severe injuries (burns, bruises, broken bones) may cause no pain. Muscular efforts lead to rapid fatigue, may permanently injure the heart and induce fainting.
10 - 6% OXYGEN:	Nausea and vomiting may appear. Legs give way, person cannot walk, stand or even crawl. This is often the first and only warning and it comes too late. The person may realize he is dying, but he does not greatly care. It is all quite painless.
LESS THAN 6% OXYGEN:	Loss of consciousness in 30-45 Seconds if resting, sooner if active. Breathing in gasps, followed by convulsive movements, then breathing stops. Heart may continue beating a few minutes, then it stops.

This description of asphyxia was taken from Noxious Gasses and the Principles of Respiration Influencing Their Action by Yandell Henterson and Howard W. Haggard. Reinhold Publishing Corp., 330 W. 42nd Street, New York, NY.

CA STORAGE CONTAINS LESS THAN 5% OXYGEN

