



Thursday, July 09, 2020

## **CARBON DIOXIDE (CO<sup>2</sup>) SYSTEMS USED IN BEVERAGE DISPENSING APPLICATIONS**

Dear Business Owner,

The Town of Brighton - Office of the Fire Marshal wishes to inform you of the fire code requirements that are impacting your business. In particular, the installation and maintenance of liquid or gaseous carbon dioxide systems (CO<sup>2</sup>) that are used for your beverage dispensing system.

Carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>) is an invisible, odorless gas that is present in the air you breathe. Ordinarily, carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>) is not poisonous. However, breathing high concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>) would put one at risk for carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>) poisoning or even death by suffocation.

Recently, emergencies both locally and around the nation caused by carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>) systems leaking are on the increase. One incident involved the death of a restaurant worker who was suffocated by the gas. Another incident caused two of four emergency responders at a medical emergency to be overcome while trying to render emergency first aid. Numerous others have not been so fortunate.

As of May 12, 2020 New York, State formally adopted the 2020 Fire Code of New York State. Simply stated, new carbon dioxide system having a capacity over 100 lbs. (liquid) or 6000 cubic feet (compressed gas), are required to submit plans and obtain a fire code operational permit for said installation.

Any existing carbon dioxide beverage dispensing systems installed prior to the adoption of the 2020 Fire Code of New York, shall still be required to comply with minimum codes and standards.

As part of regular fire inspections and education of local business, the Office of the Fire Marshal will include carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>) storage, dispensing, permitting, and detection as part of their inspections. Attached you will find a detailed description of these new requirements so you can achieve a better understanding of how to comply with these minimum standards.

We understand that complying with these requirements will take some time and money. Rest assured we are here to assist you in achieving a code compliant carbon dioxide beverage dispensing system that are safe for your customers and employees.

Please feel free to contact our office at (585) 784-5220 with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Christopher A. Roth  
Chief Fire Marshal