

**Synopsis** Six Large Cylinders of Carbon Dioxide Empty Somewhere into Hospital

**Severity** Life Safety

**Source** Not Disclosed

**Source Date** Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Upon replacing a carbon dioxide manifold system with six “H” size cylinders, the new source valve was opened. Unknown to the valve operator, the CO<sub>2</sub> piping system had been breached in the meantime. Ice soon formed at the outlet of the manifold, but the operator had left the room.

People could have been killed if this much gas spilled into a small room. This was an especially frightening situation because the location of the spill was unknown and had to be located. Luckily, no one was injured.

This situation could have been avoided if the CO<sub>2</sub> manifold had been monitored for several minutes upon activation. Listening for gas flow through the manifold upon activation should be standard procedure, and source valves should always be opened slowly and by an experienced person.

This potentially deadly situation makes a strong case for requiring an experienced and qualified person. A high concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> is potentially dangerous.