



AL UNSER, SR.

BOATING SAFETY CELEBRITY ADVOCATE

The four-time Indianapolis 500 winner frequently had escaped death on the racetrack. But seven years ago, Al Unser, Sr. almost died from carbon monoxide poisoning on his Lake Powell, Arizona, boat.

As he and some friends prepared to head out on the lake, a storm arose and the wind loosened anchors and ropes. Al started the engines so he could maneuver the boat away from the nearby rocks, but one of the ropes caught in the right propeller. As soon as he stabilized and re-anchored the vessel, Al dove beneath it to free the rope. It was badly tangled so he decided to get a knife to complete the job. Inhaling as he surfaced in the airspace below the house platform, he grabbed a knife and dove again to cut the rope. Meanwhile, on deck, the generator was running. Little did Al know that exhaust from the generator was vented into the airspace and that he was breathing dangerously high concentrations of carbon monoxide into his lungs as he repeatedly dove and resurfaced.

To this day, Al doesn't know how he finally got himself out from under the platform. By then he was only semi-conscious. His friends took him to the hospital, and he was placed on oxygen for the next several hours. No one knew if he would make it.

This lucky survivor, unlike many recreational boaters, was well aware of the hazards of Carbon Monoxide poisoning following a lifetime of Formula I racing. But, as he says, he never thought it could happen to him.

Since the accident, Al never takes chances with his or his passengers' lives. He encourages boaters to know where CO can accumulate in and around their boats, and to be aware of the various sources of Carbon Monoxide. He reminds boaters that CO poisoning is preventable.

Please contact Natalie Johnson or Vanessa French, PCI Communications, (703) 823-1600 for more information.