

Near miss: operator seized by CO₂

What happened?

During opening of a cleaned beer tank, accompanied with a cleaning document, the operator breathed CO₂ when opening the man lid at the backside of the tank.

What was the cause?

The cleaning was done under CO₂ atmosphere, but no warning was given on the cleaning document. After opening the lid, the CO₂ flushed out the tank (CO₂ = 1.5 times heavier than air) producing locally a lack in oxygen

How can this be avoided?

Always be careful with beer tanks, even when they are cleaned. Cleaning under CO₂ is common practice!

When you clean beer under CO₂ atmosphere, put after the cleaning always a remark in box 11 of the ECD to warn other operators! Also a warning label on the lid is good practice.