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3rd period

Carbon Monoxide

I read an article called “Underground Fire Disrupts Midtown”. This article talks about how there is an underground fire an explosion in a manhole. The fire had built up a ton of carbon monoxide that was harmful to the area. People in Manhattan, New York had to clear out immediately once the fire fighters detected the carbon monoxide because it is extremely harmful to our bodies. The fire department explains that the feeder cables underground caught on fire and carbon monoxide and smoke started to build up.

The explosion happened at four thirty in the afternoon. Four buildings were cleared out of Time Square and Broadway was shut down because of the contamination in the air. By eight o’clock it was still chaotic. The fire department still hadn’t completely gained control of the situation. Tourists were anger and disappointed that their visit was not what they expected. One of the tourist told New York Times that he was upset with his visit because it was his first time visiting and he wasn’t allowed to do any sightseeing in that area. The people in the hotel close to where the accident had happened had to be bused over to a different hotel for the night.

Luckily nobody was injured by inhalation of carbon monoxide. Inhaling carbon monoxide damages your nervous system and asphyxiation because it combines irreversibly with blood hemoglobin. Carbon monoxide cannot be detected by human senses. It was good that they found out about the carbon monoxide in time. If they had of found out any later there could’ve been people that were seriously injured or even killed by this gas.

Carbon monoxide is most commonly produced by industrial processes, heating equipment, accidental fires, cigarettes, and an internal combustion engine. In this case, it was produced by an accidental fire. The fire got out of control and the carbon monoxide started to build up. It became so bad that if the people weren’t cleared out of the area they could have been severely hurt by the gas. Hopefully this won’t happen again anytime soon in New York because their tourist rate is very large and is how New York gains their income. They were lucky nobody was hurt because if this was gone unnoticed it could’ve been really bad for the state.