In response to police departments raising concerns about the possible presence of carbon monoxide (CO) in some Ford Police Interceptor Utilities, Ford Motor Company has prepared the following fact sheet to provide our customers with important information about CO, workplace safety and how to appropriately check for CO.

1. CO is measured in two ways: In the air, it is measured in parts per million (ppm) or in the blood, it is measured as the percentage of hemoglobin bound to CO (or carboxyhemoglobin [COHb]).

2. The U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) sets a standard for the Workplace of 50 ppm average over 8 hours.

3. Instantaneous peak readings showing CO levels in parts per million at a single point in time do not provide an accurate depiction of an individual's dose.

4. In general, noticeable symptoms of CO exposure (shortness of breath with moderate exertion or possible headache) among healthy adults occur after several hours breathing average CO levels of 100 ppm; more severe symptoms among health adults are generally associated with prolonged exposure to >100 ppm.

5. CO readings should only be performed with a scientifically calibrated detector, such as the RAE Systems ToxiRae PRO CO Monitor, Otis Tocsin OI-315 or Industrial Scientific Tango TX1.

6. CO monitor readings can be affected by interference from police radios, radar guns or exposure to in-car chemicals, such as vapors from cleaners, solvents, air fresheners and other chemicals that could cause false readings. Additionally, monitors should not be left in a parked vehicle in warm or cold weather.

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