



Do you know what to do in an Emergency?

If you smell gas.

- Shut off the gas supply at the emergency control valve.
- Open all doors and windows to ventilate the room.
- Do not operate electrical equipment.
- Immediately contact:
the Northern Ireland Gas Emergency Service on:
0800 002 001

In the event of Carbon Monoxide Exposure.

- Visit your GP urgently and tell him/her that you believe your symptoms may be related to carbon monoxide poisoning and request either a blood and/or breath sample

Note: Early symptoms of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning can mimic many common ailments and may easily be confused with food poisoning, viral infections, flu or simple tiredness. Symptoms to look out for include:

- tiredness
- drowsiness
- headaches
- giddiness
- nausea
- vomiting
- pains in the chest
- breathlessness
- stomach
- erratic behaviour
- visual problems
- pains

Detailed health information for Carbon Monoxide is available from the Health Protection agency's website: www.hpa.org.uk use the search facility on the site to find the latest information available for viewing and downloading.

Are You Moving or Altering Your Home?

When purchasing a property always ask about any gas appliances and installation to satisfy yourself that they have been suitably installed and regularly serviced by a GasSafe Register Engineer.

When altering your property check with a registered Engineer or your gas supplier to confirm that any alterations will not have an adverse effect on the operation of your gas appliances by for example reducing ventilation.



Further Information.

Further Information on Gas Safety and Carbon Monoxide Health and Safety is available from the following sources:

Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland
www.hseni.gov.uk (select gas from topics)

Gas Safe Register
www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk

Your Local District Council Environmental Health Department and Building Control Department.

Your Gas Supplier, contact information can usually be found on your latest gas bill.

Note :
This information leaflet has been prepared by the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland in partnership with members of the Gas Safety Working Group which include:



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Domestic Gas

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Gas.

Gas is primarily used by the public for home heating, hot water provision and cooking. It is available either as natural gas (piped supply to your home) or as Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG - normally sold as Butane or Propane in cylinders or bulk tanks).

Hazards Associated with Gas.

The gas industry is well regulated and gas is safe to use if managed properly. However gas leaks can result in a fire or explosion while incorrectly installed or poorly maintained gas appliances can produce poisonous Carbon Monoxide (CO).

IS YOUR HOME SAFE?

The following simple but effective safety steps could save your life!



Choose Your Gas Appliance Wisely!

Purchase gas appliances only from a reputable outlet and ask the dealer about it's built in safety devices. Every new appliance is supplied with a full instruction book - read it carefully and keep the instructions in a safe place. If you move house or sell the appliance, please pass the instruction books to the new owner. If you don't have the instruction books you need, contact the appliance suppliers for replacements, these can also often be found on the manufacturers website for download.

Choose a Competent Gas Safe Registered Engineer!

Never attempt a 'Do It Yourself' on a gas installation. Gas appliances must only be installed by a competent Gas Safe Register Engineer. Gas Safe Register acts as the gas industry watchdog and works to improve standards and help the public to find and use safe and competent Engineers. You can find a competent Gas Safe Register Engineer in your area by calling Gas Safe Register directly on: 0800 408 5500 or by visiting the following website: www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk



Always, when the Engineer arrives ask to see their Gas Safe Register ID card and to show you on the reverse of the card their qualifications for the work to be done. If you have any doubts about the Engineer's competence to do the work then contact Gas Safe Register to check out the Engineer.

	Domestic	Gas	LPG	Non-Domestic	Gas	LPG
Pipework	10/12/10	10/12/10				
Cookers	10/12/10	10/12/10				
Gas Fire	10/12/10					
Gas Boiler	10/12/10					

The cardholder is deemed competent only in the categories of work identified by a date.



Service your Gas Appliances Annually!

Gas appliances should be serviced annually (or more frequently if the manufacturer advises), to make sure they are working safely and efficiently. Poorly maintained appliances may cost you more than money; they may cost you your life!

How do I know if I am at risk from carbon Monoxide?

Carbon monoxide is produced when any type of fuel (eg. wood, coal, oil, gas) is incompletely burned. Fuel burning appliances such as oil/gas boilers, fireplaces, space heaters, grills, water heaters and cookers are often sources of carbon monoxide. Poorly installed/maintained gas appliances or inadequate ventilation may lead to incomplete burning resulting in the production of carbon monoxide. The signs you might see include:

- Yellow or orange rather than blue flames (apart from fuel effect fires or flueless appliances which display this colour flame)
- Soot or yellow/brown staining around or on appliances
- Pilot lights that frequently blow out
- Increased condensation inside windows

Know Your Responsibilities: Are you a Landlord or a Tenant?

You and your landlord may both have responsibilities concerning gas appliances in your home. Landlord and Tenant responsibilities are set out in a specific free HSENI publication (Landlords: A guide to landlord's duties GSUIS 002) available from the HSENI website: www.hseni.gov.uk select gas from the topics drop down menu to view available information.



Fit a Carbon Monoxide Alarm!

HSENI strongly recommends the use of audible carbon monoxide alarms as a useful back-up precaution but they must not be regarded as a substitute for proper installation and maintenance of gas appliances by a Gas Safe Register Engineer. Before purchasing a carbon monoxide alarm, always ensure it complies with British Standard EN 50291 and carries a British or European approval mark, such as a Kitemark. As a piece of electrical equipment the carbon monoxide alarm should also be marked with the EU wide CE mark. Carbon monoxide alarms should be installed, checked and serviced in line with the manufacturer's instructions.

You can be particularly at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning when you are asleep, because you may not be aware of early carbon monoxide symptoms until it is too late. Installing an audible carbon monoxide alarm could wake you and save your life.