

The Carbon Monoxide & Gas Safety Society

Lorien House
Common Lane
Claygate
Surrey KT10 0HY
Tel (01372) 466135
Fax (01372) 468965

www.co-gassafety.co.uk

Email: office@co-gassafety.co.uk

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Baroness Maddock

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The Carbon Monoxide & Gas Safety Society (CO-Gas Safety) is an independent charity committed to reducing accidents from Carbon Monoxide and other gas dangers worldwide and supporting gas related accident victims. Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in England. Registration No. 03084435. Charity Registration No. 1048370

Date.....

Dear

We have been informed of the death of
from accidental Carbon Monoxide poisoning and we believe this may fall in your jurisdiction. If so, could you please complete the attached form, after the inquest, and send it on to us in the SAE enclosed or you could email it to office@co-gassafety.co.uk

We also send you our brief statistics sheet. We have now published 15 years of data of deaths and injuries from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning and these can be found on our website www.co-gassafety.co.uk under 'Stats & Analysis'. We have for the first time analysed our data under fuel type, appliance type, age of victims, place of incident, tenure type and month of death. We first published this analysis in January 2011 and will be publishing our latest year 2010-11 in January 2012. This will be put on our website shortly after our event, which will probably be on the 31st January. We will also send you this in the next update to follow our event.

Our statistics seem to be the only ones that contain the names of the dead (see <http://www.co-gassafety.co.uk/deaths.html>).

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated and will help with the continued collection of extremely valuable data that we have been collecting since September 1995. We consider that our data is the best in the UK because the HSE only collect gas related CO deaths and they do not even try to check with Coroners.

We have applied for funding to continue with our data collection, collation and publication to the Gas Safe Charity as we have no funding for this at the moment and are struggling. We have been told that if we obtain an auditing of our data, consideration will be given to our request for funding. The Gas Safe Charity has kindly offered to pay for this although it isn't easy to find the right body to do this as we would like an independent university to undertake this job and statisticians seem to compare and analyse data, not check it. Any ideas would be much appreciated.

Our data has been particularly helpful in our lobbying efforts to persuade both industry and the government to take action to stop these unnecessary deaths hopefully in time to stop further deaths (for example hidden flues, appliances labelled 'at risk' instead of immediately dangerous, ovens with grills that can have the grill door shut). We are also publishing our 'suggestions for changes to improve safety' on our website. All suggestions have been made as a result of R. 43s by Coroners or ideas from families and analysing the causes of deaths.

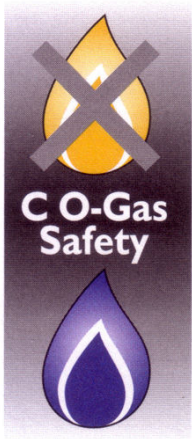
You may also be interested by the London ambulance service, Andy Humber. See http://www.co-gassafety.co.uk/ambulance_survey.html. The most important part is:-

'Conclusions

Previous incidents demonstrate that on many occasions ambulance personnel had been exposed to un-identified situations of elevated CO concentration, in which crews performed clinical assessment and treatment of patient(s). In the cases reviewed the attending ambulance personnel had neither the equipment nor the protocols to diagnose CO poisoning as the presenting medical condition.

By using the CO monitor for routine patient assessment clinicians have been alerted to raised levels of exhaled CO, enabling appropriate early treatment and rapid extraction of patient and ambulance personnel from the a hazardous environment. Lack of knowledge of the signs indicating CO poisoning by the emergency services have placed blue light responders at risk of CO poisoning.

Following the review of previous incidents, it is clear that many CO poisoning cases had no been reported as such. Also that intelligence of CO risk was not routinely passed between the



emergency services. Data on CO poisoning is not collated nationally from the emergency service and therefore prevalence of CO poisoning events remains unknown.'
Also some valuable recommendations were made.

We are still very concerned about the other toxins in the products of combustion. These consist of heavy metals, such as mercury and manganese which can build up in a person over a long period. Emissions from coal and oil powered appliances are higher in these but even natural gas contains them. There are also Volatile Organic Compounds and Particulate Matter to consider. For further information please see http://www.co-gassafety.co.uk/other_toxins.html or contact Stephanie Trotter at office@co-gassafety.co.uk or Tel. 01372 466135. It could be that you have an unexplained death that could have been caused by these other toxins.

You may be interested by the WHO guidelines on indoor air pollution published in Copenhagen in December 2010. See <http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-publish/information-for-the-media/sections/latest-press-releases/first-who-indoor-air-quality-guidelines-on-indoor-chemicals-now-released>

We are still running our schools poster competition to raise awareness (ages 10-11) and are now in our fifth year so please visit www.co-gassafety.co.uk/competition.html and please inform your local newspaper. We now have funding from DoH for this until 2013. Scotland Gas Networks has kindly agreed to sponsor Scotland this year.

We now have an area on our website for Coroners <http://www.co-gassafety.co.uk/coroners.html> which will have a copy of this letter and a downloadable form.

We will be looking out for your response. Thank you.

Yours Sincerely

Jo Richards
Cuttings and Data Processing Officer
Stephanie Trotter, OBE, President & Director CO-Gas Safety