

CO-GAS SAFETY'S STATISTICS ON DEATHS AND INJURIES*

UK deaths caused by accidental Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning

(Between 1 Sept 1995 - 31 Aug 2016): **Total: 715**

Note *Information is collected from the International Press Cuttings Bureau on a daily basis and from other sources. Coroners are contacted about all deaths. The tabulated data presented here is based on the December 2015 update. For further details please visit www.co-gassafety.co.uk

TENURE	
Total Number of CO accidental deaths by Tenure: (1 Sept 95 – 31 Aug 2016):	
Owner/Occupier	406
Private Rental	69
Council	69
Housing Association	19
Other (e.g. hotel)	39
Unknown	113

SITUATION					
Total Number of CO accidental deaths by Situation (1 Sept 1995 – 31 Aug 2016):					
House	340	Campervan	10	Public House	4
Flat	101	Boat	32	Care Home	2
Bungalow	50	Shed/Cabin	12	Shop	4
Caravan	31	Hotel	5	Public Hall	2
Vehicle – car/lorry	16	Workshop	5	Other	11
Garage	27	Tent	14	Unknown	41
Work Place	12	Commercial Premises	5		

FUEL TYPE																						
Total Number of CO accidental deaths by Fuel breakdown and CO-Gas year (1 Sept to 31 Aug):																						
	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	Total
Gas Mains	33	23	20	24	14	15	8	12	8	14	13	9	12	18	4	12	0	4	3	2	0	248
Gas Portable	8	8	5	5	10	6	7	7	7	4	7	4	3	6	5	3	1	2	3	0	0	101
Solid	26	18	26	14	17	14	5	8	5	5	8	14	11	5	9	9	11	5	5	5	1	221
Petrol	6	7	3	7	3	5	6	1	2	3	2	9	5	4	6	6	2	4	5	1	0	87
Oil	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
Paraffin	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Unknown	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	3	0	2	3	7	1	4	14	49
Total	74	59	54	51	46	40	28	30	23	28	32	39	33	37	25	32	17	23	17	12	15	715

Note Zane Gbangbola, aged 7, died in February 2014. The Coroner's verdict in September 2016 was that Zane died of carbon monoxide poisoning. However, the blood test found only 8% carboxyhaemoglobin and we have never heard of a death of an otherwise healthy person dying at such a low level. The family disputes the finding and continues to maintain that Zane died of hydrogen cyanide from a flood from a landfill site, so we have not included this death. see <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3794537/Justice-Zane-New-hope-parents-blamed-death-flood-tragedy-son-MP-attacks-seriously-flawed-inquest.html>

Near-Misses from Accidental Carbon Monoxide Poisoning in UK

(1 Sept 1995 - 31 Aug 2016): **Total: 5233**

More than 2188 requiring hospital treatment and of those over 379 had lost consciousness

95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	Total
452	444	317	378	327	300	103	153	171	214	155	327	202	264	204	174	212	299	264	138	135	5233

Gas Safety data on deaths from unintentional CO poisoning put into HSE years (1 April to 31 March)

Year	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/20	20/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	Total
Solid fuel	25	17	22	18	15	19	5	8	3	7	8	12	10	8	7	7	7	8	9	5	1	221
Gas Mains	28	24	18	23	16	17	6	13	9	13	10	9	12	15	8	12	0	4	0	4	0	241
Gas Portable	8	6	6	5	10	6	6	7	9	2	8	3	5	5	4	4	2	2	2	1	0	101
Petrol/diesel	4	7	5	6	4	3	6	4	2	2	2	8	7	2	8	4	3	1	6	0	0	84
Oil	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
Paraffin	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Unknown	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	3	3	3	1	5	0	2	3	6	3	7	11	54
Total	65	57	51	52	47	45	25	36	23	27	31	35	37	36	28	29	15	22	20	17	12	710

Please note that HSE collect statistics for domestic/commercial CO fatalities due to both LPG and Natural Gas. Workplace CO deaths recorded could (theoretically) arise from incomplete combustion of any type of fuel but solid fuel unlikely in workplaces. In contrast, CO-Gas Safety collects statistics with regard to unintentional CO related deaths and injuries from all fuels.

CO-Gas Safety data on deaths from unintentional CO poisoning put into Gas Safety Trust years (1 July to 30 June)

Year	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/20	20/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	Total
Solid fuel	26	17	26	15	17	15	6	8	5	5	7	12	10	9	8	6	12	3	9	4	1	221
Gas Mains	31	22	21	24	13	16	7	12	8	14	12	7	13	17	4	12	0	4	2	2	0	241
Gas Portable	8	8	5	5	10	5	8	7	7	2	8	4	4	5	4	4	2	2	3	0	0	101
Petrol/diesel	6	7	4	7	3	3	8	1	2	2	3	7	7	4	6	4	3	4	3	0	0	84
Oil	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
Paraffin	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Unknown	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	3	4	2	1	5	0	2	3	6	3	8	14	58
Total	71	57	56	52	44	39	32	31	22	26	34	32	37	41	23	28	20	20	20	14	15	714

Please note. CO-Gas Safety started collecting its data on the 1st September 1995 so for 95-96, the data put into HSE year (April to March) and Gas Safety Trust year (June to July) is only partial for that time period.

RIDGAS: Gas-related incidents reported in Great Britain

Table refers to gas-related incidents reported under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations (RIDDOR)

Incidents/Severity	Incident Type	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Incidents	All	278	173	224	211	161	145
Incidents	Carbon monoxide poisoning	229	142	193	188	138	125
Incidents	Other exposure eg. to unburnt gas	13	7	6	3	3	4
Incidents	Explosion/Fire	36	24	25	20	20	16
Fatalities	All	17	4	10	6	6	9
Fatalities	Carbon monoxide poisoning	13	3	9	3	6	8
Fatalities	Other exposure eg. to unburnt gas	1					
Fatalities	Explosion/Fire	3	1	1	3		1
Non-Fatalities	All	428	266	353	356	240	219
Non-Fatalities	Carbon monoxide poisoning	368	226	313	329	214	195
Non-Fatalities	Other exposure eg. to unburnt gas	12	8	6	5	3	5
Non-Fatalities	Explosion/Fire	48	32	34	22	23	19

Notes:

Source: RIDDOR – Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (as amended)

r = Revised

p = Provisional

- (a) Mainly piped gas but also includes bottled LPG
- (b) An incident can cause more than one fatality or injury

Regulation 11(1) of RIDDOR 2013 places a duty on certain conveyors of gas (including LPG), to notify HSE of an incident involving a fatal or major injury that has occurred as a result of the distribution or supply of flammable gas. The statistics published above are 'as reported' to HSE. When such reports are made, it is at the early stages of the incident, thus the detailed circumstances of the incident will not have been known.

Key changes to the reporting system and the legal requirements for RIDDOR have occurred in recent years. More information on data changes affecting RIDDOR statistics is available at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/riddor-notification.htm>

General information on domestic gas safety is available at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/gas/domestic/index.htm>

Statistics on HSE prosecutions by legislation (including gas safety) are available at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/index.htm>

Comment by CO-Gas Safety: Please note that although RIDDOR imposes a duty to notify HSE, it seems that HSE is under no specific duty to investigate. HSE always investigates if there is a fatality but, in our experience, does not usually investigate a mere incident or injury, unless extremely serious.