



**Notes on the Mills Case by Stephanie Trotter of CO-Gas Safety  
Private and Confidential**

In our opinion, this case clearly demonstrates why Transco should have flue gas analysing equipment. Gerry Mills died in April 1999 from Carbon Monoxide poisoning (CO) about one month after a visit from Transco. In March 1999, Mr. and Mrs. Mills had been ill and had then telephoned British Gas Service who, realising it was 'fumes' had called Transco. There was a gas fire in the living room and a boiler sited in the kitchen. The Transco operative had apparently used a smoke pellet and found the boiler flue to be sound. However, he had expressed some very slight concern over the lack of ventilation for the gas fire in the living room. Despite the fact that the couple had been ill in the night, the Transco operative gave the couple the 'all clear'.

Sadly about a month after the Transco visit, in April 1999, Gerry Mills died in his home from CO emissions. His wife survived but was badly affected. After the death of Gerry Mills, it took only a few minutes for the gas expert appointed to investigate by the Coroner, to find that Mr. Mills had been killed by CO emissions from the boiler. The expert found 26,900 ppm of CO going up the boiler flue. This is a lethal amount of CO and had almost certainly leaked in a downdraft. A downdraft occurs when the wind blows down the chimney or flue causing the products of combustion to blow back into the room or house. Also, after the death, the gas fire was found to be perfectly satisfactory. If only the Transco operative had carried and used a flue gas analyser, we consider this death would have been avoided.

Incidentally, the couple's daughter told Stephanie Trotter of CO-Gas Safety, that after Transco's visit, the couple had still wrongly believed that they had been visited by British Gas Service. Indeed when urged by their daughter to do more, they had insisted that they had been inspected by the experts.

We are also very concerned that all calls to Transco, whether 'gas leaks' or 'fumes', are passed on to the Transco operative as 'gas leaks'.

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*Joyce Mills*

I am Leigh Wiseman, Joyce Mills' daughter and I think she signed this in about May 1999. If only in my step father's situation where The Emergency Gas Services were called, the guy that came to my parents house had carried analysing equipment, this whole tragedy would never of happened. Still cant understand why they dont carry a flue gas analyser. It would save so many lifes. Just basic common sense to me.  
Leigh Wiseman, Joyce Mills' daughter 10/02/20

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& Gas Safety Society**

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