

CO-Gas Safety 2025-26 Month by month highlights

25th January 2025 was our 30th anniversary!

A bitter-sweet day – so much work done; so little achieved due to lack of industry and government action.

See our 30 year report <https://www.co-gassafety.co.uk/information/30-year-anniversary-report/>

There is a need for a properly set up body funded by industry to do what CO-Gas Safety does.

Hound Global was the PR agency we took on leading up to our 30th anniversary. They did a good job for the charity before, during and after the 25th January and in March reported that they had achieved 77 brand mentions, 122 pieces of coverage that had reached an audience of **368.3 million**. Thank you Hound Global! If we had more funding, we would continue to work with this PR agency, but we have to run a tight ship.

February

Meeting at Portcullis House of Stephanie Trotter and Paul Overton with Paul Davies MP, Chair of APPCOG and Gaelan Komen of Policy Connect for APPCOG*. Presented ideas of amending Regulations re landlords' gas safety check to include a mandatory duty to test for CO and record levels of CO if found before and after safety check. Also, for gas emergency service to have mandatory duty to test for CO and for all RGEs to have the same duty. Also, that where CO found Parts Per Million of CO must be recorded and provided to those exposed or could have been exposed in writing/digitally for their medics. Paul Davies MP suggested Gaelan and Stephanie work together on wording of amendments. **The All Party Parliamentary Carbon Monoxide Group*

Debate Westminster Hall Carbon Monoxide Poisoning: Travel Advice

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2025-02-11/debates/233675FF-C0F7-4605-90CB-A4D36A498135/CarbonMonoxidePoisoningTravelAdvice> Stephanie attended with Cathy Foley, Kathy Atkinson of the Safer Tourism Foundation & Stephanie Trotter attended. Good debate but sadly, Paul Davies MP did not speak as had been intended.

Sent submission re RIIO3 to Ofgem re awareness, testing for CO and data and reminded Ofgem that it has statutory duties with regard to raising awareness of CO and customers in vulnerable situations and public funding was being used, so surely data should be recorded and publicly available?

March

Saved article about Cadent giving £1.5 million to Alzheimer's.

<https://www.charitytoday.co.uk/1-5m-cadent-fund-to-support-alzheimers-society-in-energy-efficiency-project/> While we applaud funds given by industry to charity, we are concerned that even low levels of CO cause brain damage which people can wrongly

CO-Gas Safety Report of the Year January 2025-26 Month by month

suspect is Alzheimer's. We would also like all those concerned about Alzheimer's to be able to obtain a test of the air in their homes etc. for CO.

Spoke to Jason Perrins and we discussed best way to convey the messages on a CO alarm, particularly the need to evacuate the premises as soon as possible. He suggested a laminated sign for all rented property. Stephanie suggested that if space on the alarm was a problem what about a QR code with fuller information put on the box and in the instructions.

Wrote to Ofgem re RIIO3 and apologised to the team for forgetting to mention gas cookers to Ofgem in submission – added CLASP* report, EU report**, and submission to Healthy Homes. Added link to Beth Cheshire's research and MOU (Memorandum of Understanding setting out how Ofgem and HSE should work together).

**<https://www.clasp.ngo/research/all/the-public-health-environmental-impacts-of-cooking-with-gas/>

**<https://epha.org/gas-cooker-pollution-causes-thousands-of-early-deaths-regularly-breaching-who-standards-across-europe/>

Heard BBC Radio 4 'The PM programme' reporting on WHICH research on gas cookers. Asked why no test of CO. Sent CLASP and EU reports. Also, Beth Cheshire's research as a link.

We were allowed to attend COMED* meeting but Stephanie was abroad on holiday. Paul Overton and Sue Westwood kindly attended. Gaelan Komen of Policy Connect for APPCOG kindly read out my statement of what Stephanie would have said if she had been able to attend. We asked for COMED to call for victim support and to learn from victims' experiences. Also, the need for testing the air and emissions for CO in homes and awareness leading to prevention. Sadly, this was at the end while a lot of people were packing up.

*COMED is a committee of medics under APPCOG

Wrote to Gaelan Komen and Paul Davies MP, chair of APPCOG and sent this <https://www.insidehousing.co.uk/news/revealed-more-than-200-ronan-point-style-blocks-still-have-gas-and-may-not-have-had-strengthening-work-90950> and asked now APPCOG focussed on only CO please tell us if there is an APG relevant or it is just HSE? Also sent <https://www.who.int/news/item/17-03-2025-nearly-50-million-people-sign-up-call-for-clean-air-action-for-better-health>

Interesting media alert that Councils had received £327 million from landlords' licensing fees. <https://thenegotiator.co.uk/news/regulation-law-news/a-staggering-327m-raked-in-from-property-licensing-schemes/>

April

Received March APPCOG newsletter about lobbying to remove exemptions re CO alarms. Asked what the authority was for CO now being a low priority – surely Healthy Homes are still a high priority for the Labour Government?

Mari Herigstad gave an expert presentation at the symposium on her CO in pregnancy paper, pre-print available: [Carbon monoxide exposure in pregnant women in the UK – results from the IPPCO study](#). Hilary Wareing did a great deal of work on this research. Of 161 households monitored, 57.8% had detectable CO levels, (31.7% experiencing levels above 4ppm and 14.3% above 10ppm).

Heard good news from Roz Savage MP that Sir Stephen Timms wrote that HSE had told Ofgem CO was a safety issue in letter dated 03.02.25. Later received permission to send this letter to Ofgem and quote from it which we did.

Heard from survivor MS who sent this <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/apr/08/everyone-is-breathing-this-is-how-just-trying-to-stay-warm-is-killing-thousands-a-year-in-the-worlds-coldest-city>

Heard from CC father of student dentist daughter poisoned at a dental practice – he sent summary. Caused by frozen condensate in condensing boiler. HSE notified.

Wrote to Hilary Bath and Simon Main and sent some clear questions for the trustees of the Gas Safe Charity, seeking support for CO-Gas Safety's aims, particularly mandatory testing for CO, whenever practicable.

Helped the family of Michael Barnard who had died from unintentional CO in a car. <https://en.pressbee.net/show3890593.html?title=man-36-slowly-gassed-to-death-after-car-filled-with-deadly-poison> Lucy, Michael's sister wants the law changed to insist on a CO detector in a car. Wrote to editor of Lucy's local paper and sent my short CV and asked editor to forward to Lucy. Put the family in touch with Michelle Hindson, mother of Nikki Willis, who had also died from unintentional CO in a car see <https://www.co-gassafety.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/APPROVED-Nikki-Willis.pdf>

Helped Jerry Hill, father of Tom Hill, deceased from unintentional CO, with his press release and general advice about media for his climbs and other fund-raising activities the family were kindly doing for CO-Gas Safety.

May

Very exciting successful events organised by Jerry Hill in England, Wales, Switzerland, Greenland and Tasmania – all events that were to honour Tom Hill, who tragically died of CO aged just 18, and to raise funds for CO-Gas Safety. Fantastic pictures and a film from Jerry about the climb. Wrote to thank him and all who took part. Total funds for CO-Gas Safety raised were £4,500. As a person who has campaigned & lobbied for safety for over 30 years, Stephanie admitted she did find Sunday the 4th May somewhat worrying. But Jerry had organised it all perfectly and we were all delighted to hear that everyone was safe. What a brilliantly successful event!

Updated website with details etc. <https://www.co-gassafety.co.uk/tom-hill-memorial-mountain-climb-04-05-25/> Huge thanks to everyone involved.

Phil Chapman from the BBC rang Stephane re Lucy Barnard and her petition to confirm that we were supporting her petition to put CO alarms in cars – said we were supporting and had suggested she contact her MP and APPCOG. Sent Phil gas cooker reports, numbers affected, link to Beth Cheshire's research on low levels and my short CV. Wrote also to Lucy's MP Michelle Scroggins informing her of Lucy and attached my brief CV and said Stephanie hoped we could work together. Later in the month heard from Julie Cush of the BBC that her article about Michael Barnard's death in a car from unintentional CO received 128,000 hits. Wrote to NCOAA of USA about doing research in cars.

Wrote to Phil Burrows to congratulate him for Cadent's success at the Gas Industry awards.

12th May - Clean Air Strategy Review – Targeting Indoor Air Pollution meeting at Portcullis House chaired by Wera Hobhouse MP, APPCOG member. Stephanie gave a brief talk about CO, how practice, mandatory testing, increased awareness and regulations would reduce incidents. See <https://www.co-gassafety.co.uk/news-5/> Jonathan Kane followed with improvements in the technology making testing for CO easier and cheaper.

Wera Hobhouse MP asked us all what we suggested for the strategy and to write in. Need to know what to test for and have equipment to test, to be sure the equipment works and is certified to be to a standard. Professor Prashant Kumar from Surrey university suggested CO, CO2 and particles.

Also met Nathalie Pearson of Safe Air in Schools. Later put her in touch with APPCOG.

Wrote to Adrian McConnell of CORT that we assume there was a no to funding for help for survivors. He responded that he was still working on the application. Thanked Adrian and asked if funds were forthcoming, would they cover help re all carbon fuels?

Jonathan Kane is trying to ascertain an accepted definition of VOCs and then a standard for a gadget, probably a Flue Gas Analyser to test for it. Existing RGEs could undertake the tests.

Wrote to New Scientist about dementia in China. Pointed out that pollution was not mentioned, either indoors or outdoors.

June

Emailed Paisley Henderson of Wales & West Utilities re boiler problem and MOD properties generally below standard and 1.5 billion allocated.

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/south-west-military-homes-benefit-141420584.html?guccounter=1>

CO-Gas Safety Report of the Year January 2025-26 Month by month

Asked if W & W U had done any testing for CO and if so, did they find CO?

Attended inquest of Tom Hill in Winchester – Coroner Jason Pegg. Coroner could not find the trade association for LPG. CO-Gas Safety finally found it - Liquid Gas UK. Flurry of press due to inquest into the death of Tom Hill.

Note we have a case study about this death but have not yet added the inquest yet.<https://www.co-gassafety.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/APPROVED-Thomas-Hill.pdf>

Tom aged 18 died from a portable gas heater in Scotland in a rented holiday property in 2015.

Comment by CO-Gas Safety

We are not sure how safe portable LPG fuelled appliances can be made. Surely all appliances which expel the products of combustion into the living space, including gas cookers are dangerous?

Isabella Holliday, journalist, wanted 100 words and Stephanie drafted them and sent to Jerry Hill for his approval. He approved and these were sent to Isabella on 03.06.

‘Less than 2% of carbon monoxide (CO) in the air can kill in under three minutes. CO cannot be sensed using human senses. So why doesn’t the gas emergency service have a mandatory duty to test for CO?’

We are grateful to Tom Hill’s family for raising awareness of the dangers of LPG powered cabinet heaters, which surely should be banned?’

Coroner willing to write a prevention of future deaths report but when he did so this was only with regard to the lack of warning on cabinet heaters sadly, not the need for all CO alarms requiring information that if the CO alarm sounds everyone should get outside.

APPCOG told us it is lobbying for the exemptions from CO alarms re property with gas cookers only, should be removed, but we want all the exemptions removed, except probably long leases. We also want portable gas heaters and gas cookers banned or at least phased out.

Issues of concern for all the GDNs: -

1. How do the FRS* and the GDNs** decide whether or not to test for CO?

*FRS Fire & Rescue Services

** Gas Distribution Networks which run the gas emergency service

2. When testing is undertaken exactly what steps are taken before, during and after testing by the FRS and GDNs?

3. If CO is found are the parts per million (PPM) of CO found given to those exposed or who might have been exposed in writing/digitally for their medics?

4. Is there any follow up at all?

5. If low or no CO is found what happens next? Do the FRS and/or GDN just leave? We suggest that if there is any doubt, a CO alarm to EN 50291 is left at the premises and also a CO logger (such as the one by Lascar) and a further visit made.

6. What is low CO? What level is ignored?

7. Has the tenant any right to be told of the levels of CO they have been exposed to? If not, surely there should be a duty to inform the tenant.

8. Re CO alarms people need to be told to get them out of the packet and pull the tab to connect the battery.

APPCOG Stakeholder meeting

Congratulated the two Cathies re the advice by the FCO (First Call Operator*) about CO alarms to be taken abroad but sadly, only for independent travellers.

*i.e. *the Registered Gas Engineer who turns up from the gas emergency service.*

Attended Healthy Homes afternoon tea at the House of Lords 24.06.25 Photobook 'Homes to die for'.

July

Most of July spent lobbying the GDNs and Ofgem about the need to test for CO whenever practicable using a sweep test, not visual signs. Finally, we managed to arrange a meeting with Ofgem in November.

Ofgem webinar.

1. RIIO 2 was finally £171 million – RIIO-3 is only £165 million - why is it now less? Will APPCOG and other bodies such as IGEM, CORT, the Gas Safe Charity etc. lobby for an increase? Need to set up a properly funded body to do the work CO-Gas Safety does.
2. Ofgem stated that 'the incentive focus on company activity which directly impacts on consumers.' We think it's hard to imagine anything more impactful on consumers than testing/not testing for CO!
3. Ofgem also made the point that innovation allowances of £218 million must be genuinely innovative. We think it is innovative to test and to help victims/survivors!
4. The Finance overview was 'Protect consumers from unnecessary risk'. We found that somewhat ironic.
5. There is surely a need for Ofgem to set out rules re the funding provided by it to the GDNs.

Meeting with Cadent, Phil Burrows and Richard Earl and also SIA 22.07.25

Wrote to Phil Burrows of Cadent thanking him for the meeting. Explained we intend to hand over our data but technical glitch re making sure it is not changed accidentally or without our knowledge and permission and also the difficulty of the confidentiality of survivors to deal with. Also wrote re gas cookers – sent reports and Wayne Merry’s data. Made the point that gas water heaters had been dealt with quietly probably by Chris Bielby suggesting RGEs recommend replacement. Edict by HSE and APPCOG would help. Would hate to see whole gas industry founder over failure to deal with cookers.

When Stephanie mentioned the need for an organisation to be properly funded to do what we do Phil did say, ‘watch this space’ but have heard nothing since.

Huge issue suffered by victims/survivors – can’t find medics to help even assess their injuries and COMED cannot seem to help.

August

Wrote to Paul Davies MP or other members of APPCOG and asked if they had read the attached reports about gas cookers by CLASP and the EU?

Asked had he examined Cadent’s Wayne Merry’s slide 12 showing in red the highest levels of CO and CO2 when a window is shut; and even when the window is open? Surely these are so shocking that APPCOG should be calling for the banning or at least the phasing out of gas cookers? Also why not call for the standards for CO alarms to be put into the relevant Gas Regulation?

Sent email to Phil Burrows about idea for a film for raising awareness of CO. Also, re Ofgem meeting. Sent our idea (slightly amended) for a warning film to Phil again as well as all the other GDNs CO representatives responsible for CO with a plea that if they don’t like our idea could they please think up a better one?

Sent suggested draft of Gas Installation and Use Regs. 1998 Reg. 26(9) and Reg 36 to work group and Jonathan Kane. Asked for comments.

Sent gas cooker report by CLASP to Adrian McConnell of CORT. Wrote that we had sent report to APPCOG. Asked if CORT is making a contribution to Draft Determinations re RIIO-3?

Received a media alert about a picnic to celebrate 10 years of Safety Seymour – sent a congratulatory note to Phil Burrows who kindly responded.

Responded to Policy Connect about gas cookers – APPCOG is working on removing the exemption from CO alarms in homes with only gas cookers.

Wrote ‘We are very glad that APPCOG is taking this forward.

However: -

1. We think there should be mandatory CO alarms to EN 50291 in all homes, even only electrically powered homes because:-
 - (a) The legislation would be clearer and easier to understand and enforce and
 - (b) Because people often use BBQs and take them indoors when it rains - even in all electric homes.
2. As you know, CO alarms even to EN 50291 are designed NOT to alarm until there have been over 30 PPM for two hours yet levels of CO way below the alarm level have been found to cause brain damage in older adults see
<https://www.coresearchtrust.org/media-information/three-year-project-looking-at-risk-of-co-to-older-people-reveals-concerning-findings>
 No similar research has yet been undertaken to find out the effects on younger adults, children or the unborn and it's very doubtful if that would be ethical.
3. The reports on gas cookers which we have already sent, recommend at least a phasing out of gas cookers (see attached links) so could APPCOG at least work to achieve this by calling for, leading or at least publicly supporting an awareness campaign about the dangers of gas cookers? If not, could you or ideally Paul Davies MP, please explain why APPCOG chooses not to do so? Thank you.'

September

Jenny responded with the article Stephanie couldn't access about Ronan Point.
<https://www.insidehousing.co.uk/home/freshly-obtained-archive-documents-shed-new-light-on-ronan-point-disaster-93333> Seems that the organisation that filed a report was the body that became BRE when it surely should have done more. Too many high-rise buildings have gas.

Heard from Pierre Chays in Jersey. Harbour Authorities had made a film but sadly no testing for CO and no experts to comment. Considered this a missed opportunity.

Stephanie attended the Gas Safe Register event 11.09.25 – 15th year. Talked to various people, including Isabella Myers and Phil Burrows and Caroline Lane of HSE. Conversed with Oliver Lancaster CEO of IGEM. He reminded me that he'd tried to talk to HSE and had received a blank. Stephanie understood but told him he needed to try again and could he please do that? He told me that hydrogen blending would reduce the CO – Stephanie agreed but said thought the existing research on hydrogen wasn't good enough as from what she'd read this was done on new appliances and new pipes or at least recently serviced appliances. Stephanie also said that every time CO seemed to be safer the levels of CO found to cause injury were lowered. Furthermore, she said that we are not impressed with the lack of action by the gas industry on CO as she knew the fuel industry knew all about CO because I'd been telling them this for at least 30 years and so had others, such as Tony Pompe before Stephanie even started, yet what had been done? Very little, so my faith in dealing with the dangers of hydrogen was low. What about explosion and leakage?

Heard Paul Davies MP's presentation and managed to catch him afterwards, gave him my card and reminded him and Michael (who had been at our meeting in February 2025) when he'd asked Stephanie to draft some Gas Regulations. Explained that she was too busy then but had drafted these over the summer and had received feedback from one gas engineer. However, Stephanie needed something in writing from Paul Davies MP to secure more gas experts. He agreed that more gas experts the better, was very friendly and said he would write. Stephanie thanked him and he and Michael left.

Later at the same event Stephanie chatted to Caroline Lane of HSE. Told her about cooker data. Asked her about changing the Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Regs to require including cookers and also mandate the most modern equivalent of EN 50291 bought direct from the manufacturer or a reputable retailer. Said I'd send her the cooker data reports and my draft re changing the Regs re CO alarms. She said it wasn't HSE's duty to do this. Stephanie said Stephanie accepted this but surely HSE could make recommendations and what about the cross departmental committee? We discussed a duty to test for CO and registration of all fuel engineers and sweeps. She said this was not HSE's responsibility. Stephanie mentioned the cross departmental committee again and asked who attended this from HSE. She said she did, so Stephanie said I'd email her with details, and could she please raise these issues with the cross departmental committee? She kindly agreed.

Responded to NGN stakeholder team (11.09.25) who had sent us some information about their efforts with regard to CO. This is just one item that we responded to. 'It is good that there is an increase - but 10% and 100,000 doesn't seem to us to be enough with NGN's share of at least 22 million households and about 64 million people. How about some alerts on TV? TV alerts could also be used by social media.

Sent work group the following: -

[New app to help frontline workers tackle carbon monoxide risks](#)

A new app has been launched to help frontline workers tackle carbon monoxide (CO) risks. The Think CO app, developed in partnership with the Gas Safe Charity and UK Gas Distribution Networks, will provide real-time CO safety guidance to workers such as... Sent the same to Dan Edwards asking what happens and received the response that gas emergency service would be called.

Received email 23.09.25 from Caroline Lane of HSE and responded. Caroline had notified us that the cross departmental committee would be meeting sometime in December. Thanked her and offered to attend to either give a talk or at least be there to answer questions. Offered to bring people who would be able to answer technical questions. Suggested that this might be an opportunity to change the Regulations to include homes and workplaces with just gas cookers only. Suggested that gas cookers should be banned or phased out and included all the links to the reports and articles etc. Also, an opportunity to mandate for CO alarms to be EN 50291 or modern equivalent. Also suggested that all CO alarms should have an audio link as the AICO one has. Suggested that we could arrange for someone to supply a CO alarm with audio link and who would attend to answer questions. Made the point that surely HSE should be leading on this?

28.09 Wrote to Dan Edwards responding to an email Stephanie thought I'd responded to earlier but had not done so. Thanked him for the info re the drawings becoming magnets and that looked forward to seeing them at CORT. Any chance of changing the gas emergency message after CO alarm sounded? Any chance of putting the drawings on CO alarms?

29.09. Sent email to Paul Davies MP, Chair of APPCOG – please ask us to draft some regulations so we can ask as many gas experts as possible to advise us.

October

Stephanie attended the CORT conference.

CORT Conference speech 1/10/25

Programme can be found on <https://www.co-gassafety.co.uk/information/list-of-work-done/> under 01.10.26 when we have updated this.

Jonathan Kane of Kane International gave a very good talk about the need to test for CO using flue gas analysers. The work being done by the GDNs on testing. CO alarms and their limitations and exemptions. Landlord's gas safety check does not require test for CO. No mandatory duty for RGEs or GDNs to test for CO. Virtual impossibility of obtaining RGE with CNDDA1 to test so no tests possible for even the wealthy.

Time to Stop CO – NEED IS WORLDWIDE.

On the second day Mari Herigstad gave a very good talk and also Andy Speake of AICO. Stephanie in a question suggested a study of about 2,000 randomly selected homes to have Lascar data loggers and AICO alarms to EN 50291 with downloadable data and perhaps audio link too.

Wrote to Ian McCluskey of IGEM. Wrote that we were both too busy at conference to have a talk together which was what we both intended.

Does IGEM agree with these aims?

1. Gas emergency service to have a mandatory duty to test for CO whenever practicable?
2. Same duty on RGEs before and after work done. Before – for own safety and after for safety of job done and objective test of job done.

In both 1 & 2, if CO found duty to provide PPM of CO to person/s exposed in writing/digitally for medics – to save patient from irrelevant tests and save NHS funds. If IGEM disagrees please explain reasons.

Re hydrogen – thanks for the link to 7,000 documents – luckily only 1,280 on safety but isn't there a summary you could send? If summary doesn't exist surely someone should write it?

Caroline Lane of the HSE kindly wrote to inform us that the words spoken after someone rings the gas emergency service are not owned by anyone.

Heard from Amanda Hughes of Marketing GSR – 2.2% of RGEs now have CMDDA1 but no doubt many are employed by GDNs so not available for consumers. She later confirmed there is no list of RGEs with CMDDA1.

Issue of whether the Coroners can test all deceased for CO discussed. Seems that it is unlikely that they do could so, even for research.

Stephanie attended NGN event in Leeds 16.10.25

Saw Eileen Brown who introduced Stephanie to Jo Dixon, Head of Beyond the Meter. We discussed a trial of 2,000 homes and if the FCOs would put the Lasca data loggers in the homes and AICO CO alarms to EN 50291 with audio link. Discussed the practicalities.

Received the conference report in November and no mention of CO at all.

Jo later wrote that she would only discuss research project with GDNs if fully funded.

November

Meeting with Ofgem on 07.11.25. Meeting was with Nathan Macwhinnie, Deputy Director Gas Sector Price Reviews, Rebecca Pickett, Head of Future of Gas Policy and Vic Tuffens. Had sent the suggested agenda and the Sir Stephen Timms letter a few days before. This letter stated that testing for CO was a safety issue.

Meeting was mainly to discuss that testing for CO needed to be funded and preferably be compulsory e.g. term of the licences for the GDNs. We queried why less funds provided now than five years ago? Pointed out rules needed from Ofgem on raising awareness, detailed rules on data collection, need for annual report to Ofgem and for a body to replace CO-Gas Safety.

Later considered the situation that either Ofgem had power to impose such rules or conditions and if Ofgem stated it did not, then we would seek a legal opinion on this. If Ofgem was correct, then lobbying for a change in the law would be the only way forward.

Tried to help a survivor SB who is in a vulnerable situation with a mother of over 90, by asking Cadent for a CMDDA1 check. Received an email stating, 'Without permission from the property manager unfortunately we can not move forward with carrying out a CMDDA1 check.' Asked Phil Burrows of Cadent, surely this cannot be right? Why not ask Cadent's lawyers?

Spent quite a long time on the draft regulations Reg. 36 and Reg. 26(9).

Wrote to Dan Edwards, SGN, Chair of GDN CO Group re the article <https://london-tv.co.uk/26-of-carbon-monoxide-safety-call-outs-linked-to-alarm-failures-and-battery-faults/>

1. If CO is suspected, why tell people to open the windows before getting outside?
2. 'New data has revealed 26% of carbon monoxide (CO) call-outs attended by SGN engineers are considered 'false alarms' linked to battery or alarm failure.'

Was a test of the air in the premises made for CO? Were the emissions from appliances tested for CO? Is the 'data' really 'data' or just the results of the opinion of the FCO?

Emailed Vic Tuffen Ofgem engineer copying in Nathan Macwhinnie; Rebecca Pickett, David Paterson, our work group and Jonthan Kane. Wrote that the most vital issue is how data about CO is created. Data about CO is barely in existence at the moment because there are hardly any Registered Gas Safe Engineers testing for CO in the home. Yet the attached research 'Giving Carbon monoxide nowhere to hide found testing only adds 5-7 minutes to a normal visit' <https://www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Giving-carbon-monoxide-nowhere-to-hide.pdf>.

Wrote again about the data to Nolan Robertson, Sarah Long and Vic Tuffen of Ofgem copying Nathan Macwhinnie; Rebecca Pickett; David Paterson; Work group; Sue Westwood-Ruttledge; Jonathan Kane. Made the point that the data is provided by public funds so the data should be available to the public. Suggested best way would be an annual report to Ofgem. Discussion about what Ofgem meant by Business As Usual.

Heard from Nolan Robertson of Future Energy Networks – looked it up and found it is part of IGEM - <https://www.igem.org.uk/future-energy-networks.html> Nolan is going to ask for someone to get in touch so they can understand what we want re annual report. Thanked him very much and made the point that a discussion of the detail is needed.

Read article 'Carbon monoxide exposure in pregnant women in the UK'

Important headlines for us are: -

The IPPCO Study, one of the first to measure CO exposure in the homes of pregnant women, produced some important findings:

- 57.8% of homes had detectable CO levels
- 31.7% recorded levels above 4ppm, and 14.3% exceeded 10ppm
- Several households surpassed WHO recommended limits
- 44% of homes did not have a working CO alarm

Beyond the data, the study provided important insights into perceptions of risk amongst pregnant women. Many women assumed CO exposure "wouldn't happen to them," and healthcare professionals identified the urgent need for a system-wide response.

Received email from HSE – invitation to the cross departmental committee on CO. Had written about removing exemptions from CO alarms. Will get an opportunity to talk at a virtual meeting from 12.15.

Received awareness film https://youtu.be/KTn_sZrouEY from Kieron Styler about fishing and CO dangers in bivvies with gas heaters etc.

Rang brother of Stephen Kitcher an angler who died of CO in 2022. Had a chat and sent an email with our original letter to the County Press (not published).

Spent some time looking at the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Regs 2015 and amendment in 2022 and looking up exemptions and whether schools have to have CO alarms – they don't.

December

APPCOG confirmed that schools do not have to have CO alarms. Copied this into Nathalie Pearson's Safe Air in Schools open letter to Ministers.

Lavanya Rangarajan of Policy Connect and APPCOG responded positively re our ideas for raising awareness in neighbourhood health centres.

08.12.25 CO-Gas Safety and Jonathan Kane are now on the data update GTINs.

Phil Burrows of Cadent confirmed that although the costs implications are still being worked through the activities now classified as BAU seemed advantageous and guaranteed that CO testing would be continued in RIIO-3 and beyond.

Sent this article to Nathalie and Lavanya Rangarajan <https://automation-update.co.uk/2025/12/10/multiplexed-gas-analysers-can-lower-costs/> Stephanie wrote that after reading it - seems that the basic message is that air analysis is done if it is mandated that it has to be done. Nathalie agreed.

Heard from JM who had alerted me to the deaths of OM and sent me an email about receiving an email from Phil for Jess Brown MP that Southern Water which stated that all the pumping equipment was found to be operating as it should be in accordance with the stringent emissions standards. Responded with a question namely, 'what stringent emissions standards'?

Ben Nelson from the Coroner's office (re the death of OM) responded that test for CO being carried out. Jonathan Groves responded that tests for CO being done to allay concerns although no evidence of CO at the time. We responded that reassuring that test now being carried out. Attached Edna Lawrence's case study to show how easy it is to miss CO unless tested for. Also wrote that there are other products of combustion that are not as easy to test for.

January 2026

Wrote to the BBC Radio 4 Today Programme about their project of following couples expecting their first baby. The programme will follow these couples for the first five years. Wrote about the dangers of CO and copied Hilary Wareing, Director of Improving Performance in Practice (iPIP). Hilary responded and was very supportive in raising awareness of CO.

Resent email sent to Ian McCluskey and Oliver Lancaster 05.12.25 and added note at the top: -

'I'm sorry Ian to be sending this again but we would be grateful if you could tell us whether or not you and IGEM support a mandatory test for the gas emergency service for deadly CO, whenever practicable? Please note the attached in which NGN engineers found that such a test only takes 5 to 7 minutes.'

Received a more positive response and Ian kindly gave us a quote to put in our report of the year

'In principle, IGEM supports a duty to test for CO to be on the gas emergency service. There are challenges of funding that need to be resolved; however, IGEM is happy to work with CO-Gas Safety, the GDNs, Ofgem and other bodies to resolve these issues.' We have thanked Ian and sought his advice on how to take this forward.

Responded in detail to a letter from Nathan Macwhinnie of Ofgem copying in David Paterson and Rebecca Pickett and ended, by asking under the FOI Act: -

1. Could, if Ofgem wished, require GDNs to test for CO whenever practicable as a condition of licence?
2. Is the GDN duty to report GTINS data a licence condition?
3. If yes, when was this condition imposed?

We have been invited to speak to the Cross-Departmental Committee on Gas Safety and Carbon Monoxide on 19th February 2026 but sadly this is only a virtual meeting which is not as helpful as a face-to-face meeting, which can also be recorded.

We continued to: -

(a) Seek support for mandatory testing for the deadly gas CO test* CO on the gas emergency service and all Registered Gas Safe Engineers from the fuel industry, IGEM, charities, Gas Safe Register, HSE, Ofgem and leadership from APPCOG.
**and give PPM of CO found to those exposed for medics plus recorded as data.*

Please note that in 2011-12 NGN found that it was possible to test for CO in homes and this only added 5-7 minutes onto the visit <https://www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Giving-carbon-monoxide-nowhere-to-hide.pdf>

(b) Support victims, survivors and their families.

(c) Collect, compile and publish data of deaths of unintentional CO updated late January or early February see <https://www.co-gassafety.co.uk/data-menu/>
We now have 30 years of data!

(d) Continued to lobby for a new body to take over our work. We have come across around four cases where people are being poisoned from emissions from next

door and these seem very difficult to solve, even when the survivors whom we are trying to help are offering to pay to move the boiler or flue etc. next door.

- (e) Try to obtain the interest of Radio 4's Woman's Hour and all other media in CO.
- (f) Contribute to APPCOG stakeholder meetings and events.