



Absafe Community Safety Bulletin

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GET GAS SAFETY SAVVY

This week marks the sixth annual Gas Safety Week across the UK. The aim of the nationwide campaign is to raise awareness of the dangers of poorly maintained gas appliances which can cause gas leaks, fires, explosions and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Here at Absafe, we're backing the campaign - so here's six simple steps provided by the Gas Safe Register to ensure you stay safe when you're warm and cosy .

- **Only use a Gas Safe registered engineer to fit, fix and service your appliances.** You can find and check an engineer at GasSafeRegister.co.uk or call 0800 408 5500.
- **Check both sides of your engineer's Gas Safe Register ID card.** Make sure they are qualified for the work you need doing. You can find this information on the back of the card.
- **Have all your gas appliances regularly serviced and safety checked every year.** If you rent your home ask for a copy of the landlord's current Gas Safety Record.
- **Know the six signs of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning** -these include headaches, dizziness, breathlessness, nausea, collapse and loss of consciousness. Unsafe gas appliances can put you at risk of CO poisoning, gas leaks, fires and explosions.
- **Check gas appliances for warning signs that they are not working properly** e.g. lazy yellow flames instead of crisp blue ones, black marks or stains on or around the

appliance and too much condensation in the room.

- **Fit an audible carbon monoxide alarm.** This will alert you if there is carbon monoxide in your home.



What to do if you suspect CO poisoning

Get fresh air immediately. Open doors and windows, turn off gas appliances and leave the house. See your doctor immediately or go to hospital - let them know that you suspect CO poisoning. They can do a blood or breath test to check.

If you think there is an immediate danger, call the Gas Emergency Helpline on 0800 111 999. Ask a Gas Safe registered engineer to inspect your gas appliances and flues to see if there is a dangerous problem.

The warning signs of a CO leak

Any of the following could be a sign of CO in your home:

- Flames of a lazy yellow or orange colour on your gas hob, rather than being a crisp blue;
- Dark staining on/around appliances;
- Pilot light that frequently blow out;
- Increased condensation inside windows.
- Faulty appliances in your home can lead to CO poisoning. Get your gas appliances checked regularly to avoid this.



The Benefits of having a CO alarm

An audible CO alarm will alert you to the presence of the poisonous gas in your home. Although no substitute for having your appliances serviced and checked regularly, fitting an audible CO alarm in your property is strongly recommended as a second line of defence.

Modern CO alarms are similar in design to smoke alarms (which do not detect CO), and can be purchased from around £15 at many major retail outlets including DIY stores and supermarkets. Before purchasing an alarm, make sure it is marked to EN 50291 and has the British Standards Kitemark or another European approval organisation's mark on it. We do not recommend the use of 'black spot detector' warning strips - they are too easy to miss and won't alert you if you have a CO leak when you're asleep.

It's advisable to fit an alarm in every room with a gas appliance - when installing and siting the alarm make sure you refer to the manufacturer's instructions. Typically, audible CO alarms have a battery life of up to five years. If you're unsure which alarm to get, you can ask a Gas Safe registered engineer for advice.

WHAT'S ON AT ABSAFE?

Heavy cloud prevents skydive team jumping for Absafe

Our brave skydiving team at Absafe will have to wait until later this year to complete their daredevil challenge. Thick cloud in Perthshire

prevented Fundraising Manager Victoria and Office Manager Jacq from taking the leap, and will return to Strathallan in November to jump 10,000 feet.

Fancy joining Jacq and Victoria in their charity challenge? Contact Victoria on Victoria@absafe.org.uk to book your place. **Don't forget to donate, make your pledge [here](#).**

Volunteer for an Award Winning Charity....

Volunteering is one of the most rewarding things you can do. It can help you gain confidence by giving you the chance to try something new and build a real sense of achievement. Volunteering can have a real and valuable positive affect on people, communities and society in general. Why don't you lend your skills, time and enthusiasm to Absafe? We're so committed to our Volunteers that we won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Contact us today at volunteers@absafe.org.uk for more information.

Relive the 90's wth Absafe

Who likes to party like its 1999? Join Absafe for an evening of nostalgia at our 90s Night at Pittodrie Stadium on November 4. Dance the night away to your favourite 90s tracks, tuck into your favourite 90s themed treats, all while raising funds for charity. We'll even provide transport back into the city centre so you can continue the party!

So get on your best set of Adidas poppers, roll up those Sweater Shop sleeves and purchase your tickets by contacting victoria@absafe.org.uk.
Tickets cost £25.

