



SUBJECT: Silent but Deadly!
RECIPIENTS: All Council Services (including schools)
ISSUE DATE: December 2020 **REF:** HSB 170

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless, poisonous gas

Every year around 40 people die from CO poisoning caused by gas appliances and flues that have not been properly installed or maintained.

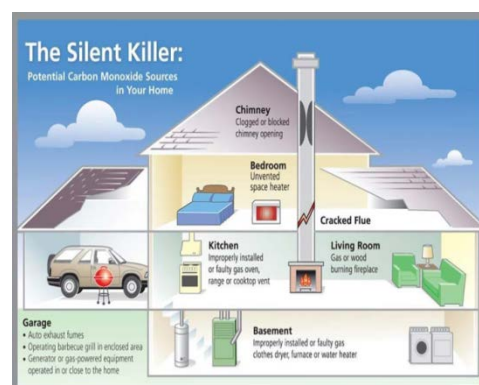
Last year there were 4,000 cases of carbon monoxide poisoning reported by A&E departments across the country.

Symptoms affect people and animals. Look out for – headaches, Dizziness, Nausea, Breathlessness, Collapse, Loss of unconsciousness Similar to the flu (or a hangover) however most of these symptoms will improve if in fresh air!

Around the property, look for;

- Black, sooty marks on the front covers of gas fires.
- Sooty or yellow/brown stains on or around boilers, stoves or fires.
- Smoke building up in rooms because of a faulty flue.
- Yellow instead of blue flames coming from gas appliances.
- Pilot lights frequently blowing out.

Have your gas appliances serviced every year by a Gas Safe registered engineer.



- Tenant? Your landlord has a **legal** duty to carry out annual gas safety checks and maintain appliances and **must** provide you with a copy of the completed gas safety check certificate.
- Always make sure there is enough fresh air in the room containing your gas appliance.
- Ensure chimneys are not blocked up and ensure that vents are not covered.
- Look out for elderly people, they may not have had a service on their fire for years due to the cost – grants are available from some charities.

Install a carbon monoxide (CO) detector as a useful back-up precaution but they must not be a substitute for proper installation and maintenance of gas appliances by a Gas Safe installer. CO detectors should be installed, checked and serviced in line with the manufacturer's instructions.

If you want to learn more about CO poisoning and the signs to look out for Lincs2Learn provide [Carbon Monoxide Awareness Training](#)

If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject, please contact the Corporate Health & Safety Team at corporatehealthandsafety@lincolnshire.gov.uk.