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## Gas/ CO2 Carbon Monoxide

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### Background

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless flammable gas that is slightly less dense than air. Due to its properties Carbon Monoxide is undetectable and poisonous to humans. On average 4,000 people attend Accident and Emergency, 200 people are hospitalised and there are 50 deaths annually in England and Wales due to Carbon Monoxide poisoning. One in every five gas appliances investigated by Gas Safe Register between April 2018 and March 2019 were unsafe. Unsafe gas appliances can cause gas leaks, fires, explosions and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

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### Key Information

- Ensure you know where to turn your gas off at the mains. It is usually situated close to your gas meter.
- Ensure there is adequate ventilation in any rooms where gas appliances are situated.
- Look for gratings or vents in the outside wall or in windows and carry out regular inspections to make sure they are not blocked or obstructed.
- Arrange for a Gas Safe registered engineer to check it over annually and repair/replace if necessary.
- Check that the Gas Safe Engineer is registered for the type of appliance that needs to be checked (their identity card will show this).
- Contact a Qualified Gas Safe Engineer if you notice any of the following signs around your boiler
  - Increased condensation
  - Floppy yellow flame
  - Sooty stain in or around your appliance

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Carbon Monoxide is produced during the process of combustion so ensure:

- If you are going to use a BBQ that it is in clear air and not an enclosed space and is at least 3m away from a building
- Have your chimney/flu swept 3 times a year to avoid it blocking and causing a build up of carbon monoxide in your home



# Home Fire Safety

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Consider fitting a Co2 detector in your home. It should be placed by the main source of Carbon Monoxide in your home such as next to the open fireplace or heating system (combi boiler).

## Local & National Statistics

- During 2019/2020 Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service attended 85 Carbon Monoxide related incidents.
- On average 4,000 people attend Accident and Emergency and 200 people are hospitalised through Carbon Monoxide poisoning.
- There are on average 50 deaths annually in England and Wales.

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## Extra Resources

HETAS

<https://www.hetas.co.uk/>

OFTEC

<https://www.oftec.org/>

GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/smoke-and-carbon-monoxide-alarms-explanatory-booklet-for-landlords>

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