



**Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service**

Protecting Our Community

COMMUNITY INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 2

DOMESTIC GAS SAFETY

Gas is primarily used for domestic home heating, hot water provision and cooking. It is available either as natural gas (piped supply to your home) or as Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG – normally sold as Butane or Propane in cylinders or bulk tanks). It is also often used in cylinders for barbecues and for cooking when camping and caravanning.

Hazards associated with gas

The gas industry is well regulated and gas is safe to use if managed properly. However, gas leaks can result in a fire or explosion. Incorrectly installed or poorly maintained gas appliances can produce poisonous carbon monoxide (CO).

To ensure your home is '**Gas Safe**' all your gas appliances should be safety checked once a year and serviced regularly according to manufacturer's instructions. These checks should be carried out by a '**Gas Safe**' registered engineer. For more information on gas safety, CO and its symptoms, visit either www.hseni.gov.uk, www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk or call the **Gas Safe Helpline 0800 408 5500**.

Useful information

- Purchase your gas appliances from a reputable outlet with a full instruction booklet. If you move house or sell the appliance pass on the instruction book to the new owner. These may also be found on the manufacturer's website for download.
- Never attempt to "Do it Yourself" on a gas installation.
- When purchasing a property always check that any gas appliances have been suitably installed and regularly serviced by a '**Gas Safe**' registered engineer.
- If you have any doubt about the safety of an appliance contact a '**Gas Safe**' registered engineer.
- Flues and chimneys play a vital role in the safe operation of gas appliances as they allow the products of combustion to escape freely. Have chimneys and flues checked every year, no matter how often you use the appliance, to ensure there are no blockages.
- Air vents allow a constant and sufficient supply of air to ensure appliances work efficiently. **Never** block these air vents. Blocking ventilation is dangerous and could result in the build up of CO in your home.
- Fit a CO alarm, and ensure you follow the manufacturer's instructions to locate the alarm in the correct place.
- Know how to turn your gas supply off in an emergency.

If you have a gas escape

- Shut off the gas supply at the meter control valve.
- Open all doors and windows for ventilation and go outside into fresh air.
- Do not operate any electrical equipment.
- **Gas Emergency Service (24hrs) Freephone number 0800 002 001.**

If you are affected by gas

- If it is urgent, call 999 for an ambulance.
- Go to your GP or the nearest A&E Department.

If you have a fire, always remember

Get out, stay out and get the Fire & Rescue Service out.

Landlords and tenants

For information on your gas safe responsibilities visit www.hseni.gov.uk/gas_landlords_duties.pdf.