

Lancaster students help trial lifesaving alarms

New intelligent carbon monoxide alarm trialled at Lancaster University's student accommodation

24 Mar 2015

- **Self-testing carbon monoxide alarm**
- **Remote monitoring of carbon monoxide escape, low battery or tampering of alarm**

National Grid has enlisted the help of Lancaster University to trial a new intelligent carbon monoxide alarm within student accommodation managed by the university. 200 new alarms have been installed in student houses as part of a six month trial to test the alarms that have wireless connectivity.

The advantage of the intelligent alarm is that it is monitored remotely. If an alarm is triggered by a carbon monoxide escape, a battery issue or someone tampering with the device, a text will be sent to the university's maintenance manager so that they can investigate the fault. The new system also provides the manager access to a web site that gives them a view of the results of all their properties by individual address and results of the weekly testing of each alarm.

Leigh Page, stakeholder delivery manager at National Grid said, "We're keen to be an industry leader on innovation and we're delighted to sponsor the intelligent carbon monoxide monitor project. We are hopeful that the project will support our ambition to reduce the number of carbon monoxide incidents each year.

"This type of alarm could help those living in student accommodation, local authority housing and sheltered accommodation, by detecting carbon monoxide gas and saving lives. The trial we're running in student houses at Lancaster University will help us learn more about the alarms and how everyone can benefit from them.

"We also see the potential, specifically for specialist groups such as the deaf and hard of hearing because of the text messaging capability of this alarms system."

The students are given carbon monoxide education when the alarm is installed and advised to call the national gas emergency number 0800 111 999, in the usual way should they suspect carbon monoxide poisoning.

Scott Wallace, Smart Compliance director, who manufacture the intelligent alarms said, "We're delighted that our carbon monoxide detectors are starting the first phase of this project in student accommodation. Our aim is to keep people safe from carbon monoxide and to raise awareness of this deadly gas. We see this collaboration between ourselves, the Energy Innovation Centre and National Grid as paving the way for an innovation change in how we detect carbon monoxide and protect people in the future."

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Notes for editors

Smart Compliance Ltd, the manufacturer of the devices, will monitor the carbon monoxide levels, device performance and receive reports wirelessly throughout the trial. The monitor automatically self-tests on a weekly basis and sends messages to a secure web server that reports the information by property.

This trial is part of a 600 unit trial across the UK, funded by the National Innovation Allowance the Ofgem fund.

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