

# National Grid pipes up for gas safety

National Grid joins the Hinckley Carnival

27 Aug 2015

- Team to spread the message about carbon monoxide safety
- Mascots Alec the metallic main and Polly the plastic pipe raise awareness

National Grid Hinckley staff will be joining the carnival this weekend to spread the message about carbon monoxide safety.

With the help of mascots 'Alec' the metallic main and 'Polly' the polyethylene (plastic) pipe and their trusty National Grid van, the seven-strong team will be advising fun-seekers at Sunday's (30 August) Hinckley Carnival how to keep safe this winter.

They will be handing out information, advice and goodies on how to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Incorrectly fitted, badly repaired or poorly maintained gas appliances can leak deadly carbon monoxide gas.

Known as the 'silent killer', some 40 people a year die of carbon monoxide poisoning and it can cause serious long term health problems. However, National Grid has three simple life-saving tips to keep people safe:

- Ensure gas appliances are installed, maintained and fixed by a Gas Safe registered engineer.
- Get your gas appliances checked annually by a Gas Safe registered engineer
- As a backup, buy and install an audible carbon monoxide detector. They can be bought for as little as £15 and could save your life

Leanne Thomasson, of National Grid's Data Assurance team, is organising the National Grid team. She said: "As we head into autumn we tend to start using central heating again and our gas appliances more.

"But people may be unaware of problems with appliances that haven't been used for a while until they hit the 'on' button so we'll be giving advice on how to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning and the danger signs and symptoms to look out for.

"National Grid in Hinckley runs the National Gas Emergency Service. We take 1.5 million gas emergency calls a year, including calls about carbon monoxide. If you think you have a carbon monoxide leak in your home or business call 0800 111 999 immediately."

Ends

Pictured left to right: Abbie Whines (as Alec the metallic main); Roy Bennett; and Taneth Taylor (as Polly the plastic pipe).



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Notes for editors

#### Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

#### National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.

- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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