

National Grid teams up with Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service for CO safety drive

National Grid has joined forces with seven fire and rescue services across the UK to deliver carbon monoxide (CO) safety advice

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- **Seven fire services include CO messages in their Home Safety check visits**
- **Vulnerable people to benefit with free audible CO alarm**

National Grid has teamed up with Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service to give lifesaving carbon monoxide (CO) advice to the area's most vulnerable residents.

The partnership is part of an initiative National Grid is running with seven fire and rescue services across the country, including Essex, South Yorkshire, Hertfordshire, Lancashire, and West Midlands. It follows a successful trial with Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, who delivered over 3,000 home safety checks, including advice on CO symptoms, prevention and how to ensure their homes are safe from the silent killer.

Dave Watson of Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "This is a great partnership initiative that enables us to give wider safety advice to all households we visit for Home Fire Safety Checks, and where necessary we are able to leave a free CO alarm for those at risk."

It is hoped that through the fire service's regular home safety checks, more and more people will become aware of the dangers of CO poisoning, take further action to make their homes safer and share their knowledge with others.

Head of operations for National Grid James Harrison said: "We are seeing great results so far which means the chance of people being harmed or killed by CO is falling."

Known as the 'silent killer', carbon monoxide poisoning kills over 50 people a year, with 4,000 people attending hospital with carbon monoxide symptoms. An odourless, colourless gas, carbon monoxide is not easily detected and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning can be confused with flu.

Mr Harrison added: "The partnership with Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service means more and more people are getting the CO safety message. We are providing them with the information, knowledge and CO alarms and they are able to deliver these to far more people during their Home Safety checks."

The results from the trial with Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service showed:

- 68% increase in CO awareness
- 81% of respondents would take all the recommended further action. This includes getting their gas appliances checked every year, passing on information to friends and family, buying a CO alarm and seeking medical advice if the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning occur
- 99% indicated they would share their new knowledge of CO dangers with family and friends

Carbon monoxide is often known as the silent killer because you can't see it or smell it but carbon monoxide poisoning can be avoided by taking simple steps. Ensure your gas appliances are fitted, maintained and serviced annually by a Gas Safe registered engineer and as a back-up, fit an audible carbon monoxide detector. They can be bought for as little as £15 and could save your life.

Following the success of the Staffordshire trial, National Grid teamed up with six further fire and rescue services and shared the trial findings with the other gas distribution networks. The other networks have now also started to team up with services in their areas to provide CO awareness.

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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>

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