

SELF-HELP GUIDE

SUSPECTED CARBON MONOXIDE LEAK



Checks to carry out if you suspect a Carbon Monoxide leak in your property.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless, tasteless, poisonous gas produced by the incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels, including gas, oil, wood and coal. **Carbon-based fuels are safe to use.** It is only when the fuel does not burn properly that excess CO is produced, which is poisonous.

When CO enters the body it prevents oxygen travelling around your body. Without oxygen, your body tissue and cells die. High levels of CO poisoning will kill quickly.

Symptoms caused by a CO leak may include headaches, dizziness, nausea, breathlessness, collapse and loss of consciousness. Some other signs include, symptoms only occurring at home and getting better when you are out of the house and similar symptoms affecting your family, visitors or pets.

How to check for a leak:

- Check for signs of staining, sooting or discolouration on or around gas boilers, fires and Water heaters.
- Check pilot lights and other gas flames that normally burn blue. If the flame changes to yellow or orange it could mean that CO is present.

If you suspect a leak:

- Get fresh air immediately - open windows and doors, turn off all appliances and go outside.
- Call us on **0800 131 3348** or **0300 123 3511**. We are here to help. Visit your doctor or in severe cases go to hospital. Tell them that you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning- they can do a simple blood test to check.

If you are uncomfortable about carrying out any of the checks suggested above, or have any concerns about any of the services in your home, please call us. We are here to help.