

Press release
5 November 2010

Just because you can't see it, taste it or smell it – Carbon Monoxide is dangerous

Hackney Homes is urging all residents to take some time during Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week (CO-Awareness Week) from 15-19 November to consider if they are doing anything that could affect their health and wellbeing.

Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning can be caused by any gas appliance that have not been properly installed, maintained or that are poorly ventilated. It causes hundreds of people to get ill every year and this can even result in death.

That is why Hackney Homes has installed Carbon Monoxide detectors in over 11,000 homes in Hackney so that residents can know immediately if they are at risk.

Jim Paterson, Hackney Homes Head of Building Maintenance said: "The safety of our residents is paramount and that is why we are urging everyone to avoid the dangers of Carbon Monoxide exposure by ensuring that all gas appliances are checked regularly".

-Ends-

Press queries to Olaide Oyekanmi on 020 8356 3522, or email olaide.oyekanmi@hackneyhomes.org.uk

Notes to Editors

- Hackney Homes is an arms-length management organisation managing around 30,000 council properties in the borough of Hackney.
- Carbon monoxide or CO is a colourless, odourless, neutral, gas oxide, which is highly poisonous.
- Carbon monoxide is produced when fuels are burned incompletely. Tobacco smoking, idling petrol, diesel powered engines, the burning of oil, wood, coal, paper, charcoal, kerosene, propane, butane, natural gas can all produce carbon monoxide. This can be in form of your boiler, fireplace and even burning your toast or chops can produce CO. However, while we all have some exposure top CO in our daily lives, when these levels increase, it can be deadly.
- Poisoning can be prevented by ensuring that all fuel burning appliances and associated flues/chimneys are installed by the appropriate, registered trades people.