



Think CO E-newsletter - Winter 2025

Welcome to the Winter 2025 Think CO e-newsletter from the Gas Safe Charity. It's mid-January and much of the UK is recovering from snow, ice and freezing temperatures. Some people will be struggling to keep their homes warm and perhaps taking shortcuts or undertaking unsafe heating practices. Hopefully, in your role as a CO aware worker or volunteer, you will be able to spot signs and take steps with your clients to ensure CO is not a risk.



Below are information and resources that will help you raise carbon monoxide (CO) awareness with the people you support in all our communities, as well as with your work or volunteering colleagues. This includes a new resource – a transcript of the Programme's e-learning course.

One of Think CO's key CO safety messages is about the need for working, in date, appropriate CO alarms. Below we highlight the premises and tenancies that are exempt from the current legislation regardless of which nation of the UK you live or work in.

We've added a few examples to illustrate the dangers of CO too. Please get in touch if you have any examples to share.

We continue to provide Think CO online training (there are Zoom workshops available all the way through to the end of February) - book here: [Free Think CO workshop](#)).

[Simon and Hilary](#)

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Accreditation of Think CO e-learning course

The Think CO e-learning course has now been externally accredited. We responded to requests for an accredited course by people whose employers or the organisation they volunteer only recognise an externally accredited course as part of a personal learning and development portfolio.



Transcript of e-learning course

Again responding to requests from people who have done the course, we have been asked for a Transcript of the course that people can download after they've complete it. This is now available to anyone who has completed the course for them to read and refer to.

Customised e-learning courses

We continue to offer our customised version of the e-learning course for any organisation interested in adding it to their online learning management platform. To find out more click on this link:

[Customised e-learning video for your organisation](#)



Zoom workshops

It seems remarkable that it wasn't until lockdown in 2020 that we even thought about online training, and it's now a core part of the Think CO offer. Since November 2021, our Eventbrite site has had over 3,500 bookings and it tells us that Glasgow is the part of the UK which has booked more places than anywhere else.

For you – we continue to run free, hour-long online workshops every month with the current schedule taking us through to the end of February.

The Zoom logo is displayed in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font.

Join a Meeting

Sign In

Attending a workshop will enable you to know what CO is, its sources signs and symptoms, as well as how to prevent CO poisoning risks. We aim to make them as informative, engaging and as interactive as possible.

To book, click [Free Think CO workshop](#)

For your organisation - we can run free Zoom Think CO workshops just for your organisation. Recently, these have included for the National Energy Foundation, Citizens Advice Hampshire, Derbyshire Citizens Advice and Kent County Council. The online workshops can be for your staff/volunteers only or they can include people from partner organisations you work with as well.

Let us know if your organisation would be interested. Contact thinkco@gassafecharity.org.uk for more information.

CO alarm exemptions



Care home incident

It's thankfully very rare that CO makes the main headline news on the BBC Six O'Clock News, but that is unfortunately what happened on 23rd October last year.

Three residents at a care home in Swanage, Dorset were found dead, four people were taken to hospital and CO poisoning was suspected as the cause. Although not yet confirmed as the investigation is continuing, we have had new interest in our Think CO training about the topic from care homes in particular.

What the incident highlighted was the fact that care homes are exempt from the current CO alarm legislation. The list of premises and tenancies that are exempt are:

- A tenancy which the occupier shares accommodation with the landlord or a member of the landlord's family.
- A tenancy which is let on a lease for seven years or more
- Student halls of residence
- Hostels
- Care homes and hospitals

However, if a gas appliance is replaced (excluding cooking appliances), the Building Regulations for the UK stipulate a CO alarm should be installed with the appliance as part of the installation.

Take care with wood burners

This photo was a reminder about an incident which we were informed about by a local fire officer. An older man was getting a reputation in the local community for anti-social behaviour and was seen as being drunk due to being red in the face.

Investigations found that he was gradually burning a whole tree trunk on his wood burner, and it was leading to CO being released and he was being poisoned.

Don't do this at home!



Oil / diesel generators

We have heard (via SGN in Scotland) that there seems to have been a rise in CO incidents linked to oil / diesel generators. As power cuts seem to be becoming more frequent, more generators are being bought for domestic use.



They should not be used inside any building and ideally should be placed some distance away from a property. However, we have heard of instances where generators have been in garages or too close to the house and CO has blown in via vents sometimes setting off the CO alarms in the property.

Increase in CO related incidents

In 2023-24, engineers from Cadent, the region's gas emergency service, responded to 572 CO-related jobs in Bolton, marking a 26 per cent increase compared to the previous year.

Staying safe from CO when abroad

Some of you may have read about an incident at the ski resort of Gudauri in Georgia where 12 sleeping workers died in a suspected CO leak from an oil powered generator, following an electricity power cut. They were found in a sleeping area above a restaurant.



Think CO is supporting the Pack Safe campaign set up last summer and mentioned in previous e-newsletters.

There is no universal standard when it comes to CO safety – the laws, regulations and policies differ from one country to another making it difficult to understand what controls are in any destination you visit. CO alarms are the key to helping manage this.

For more details about the Pack Safe campaign, click on [Pack Safe Campaign](#)

Think CO resources – all free



E-learning

Anyone can register for the Think CO e-learning course by sending your name and email address to

e-learning@gassafecharity.org.uk **The course is accessible all year round.**

Zoom workshops

There is a schedule of one-hour Zoom workshops currently available to Dec 2024. To book on click on this link: [Free Think CO workshop](#)



Face-to-face workshops

If you would like to discuss arranging a face-to-face workshop in your area, please contact us on thinkco@gassafecharity.org.uk

Materials

We have a range of free guides/leaflets that can be downloaded via this link: [Gas Safe Charity](#)