

# National Grid spreads the word about the 'silent killer' to Hertfordshire students

National Grid warns University of Hertfordshire students of the dangers of carbon monoxide

25 Sep 2014

- Free smart phone app raises awareness about 'silent killer'
- Staff attending Freshers' Week to offer advice

As students head to the University of Hertfordshire this term, National Grid is offering advice that could save their lives. Staff from the gas network company will be visiting Freshers' Week at the university on Friday 3 October to warn students of the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Every year around 50 people die in the UK from CO poisoning, a further 200 are hospitalised and 4,000 visit hospital accident and emergency departments with the symptoms of CO poisoning. Many of them are students.

National Grid's attendance at Freshers' Weeks across the country has been organised by student Abigail Basham who has been with the company on a business placement. Abigail and her colleagues will be promoting a free smart phone app called iCOP, a film-noir inspired detective game that raises awareness of the risks of CO poisoning. The game is aimed at young people living in rented accommodation and is available from app stores.

Abigail said: "Remember, you can't see or smell carbon monoxide so if you're even slightly worried that you may have CO poisoning, move into the fresh air immediately and call the National Gas Emergency Helpline on 0800 111 999. If the symptoms are severe or if someone has collapsed or is unconscious, call 999 or 112 immediately.

"Since it's hard to tell if CO is present in a house or flat – it's often called the silent killer – buying a CO detector is a very good idea. They last about ten years, they're easy to take with you if you move home and they cost no more than twenty pounds. That's the price of a couple of rounds of drinks, which has to be something of a bargain for a gadget that could save your life!"

Recognising the symptoms of CO poisoning could save lives. They include headaches, dizziness, nausea, breathlessness, eventually leading to collapse and loss of consciousness. Take particular notice if these symptoms affect all or most of the people in the house or flat, if they improve when you're out but come back when you return, or if they're worse when you're cooking or when you turn up the heating.

Because they often live in rented accommodation where the heating and cooking equipment may be old and may have been misused, students are particularly at risk of CO poisoning, but there are laws to help reduce this risk. Landlords of rented properties are legally required to provide their tenants with an annual gas safety certificate

to confirm that a qualified gas fitter has carried out safety checks on all gas appliances in the property. Also by law, landlords have to make sure that gas appliances are properly maintained and serviced at least once a year.

There's a lot more information about gas safety and CO poisoning on line. Check out [www.gassaferegister.co.uk](http://www.gassaferegister.co.uk) and [www.nationalgrid.com](http://www.nationalgrid.com).

- Ends -

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**Notes to Editors:**

National Grid is one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world. We own and manage the grids that connect people to the energy they need, from whatever the source. In Britain and the north-eastern states of the US we run systems that deliver gas and electricity to millions of people, businesses and communities.

In Britain, we run the gas and electricity systems that our society is built on, delivering gas and electricity across the country. In the North Eastern US, we connect more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for our modern lifestyles.

**National Grid in the UK:**

- ? We own the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales, operating it across Great Britain
- ? We own and operates the high pressure gas transmission system in Britain
- ? Our gas distribution business delivers gas to 11 million homes and businesses
- ? We also own a number of related businesses including LNG importation, land remediation and metering
- ? National Grid manages the National Gas Emergency Service free phone line on behalf of the industry – 0800 111 999 (all calls are recorded and may be monitored).
- ? Our portfolio of other businesses is mainly concerned with infrastructure provision and related services where we can exploit our core skills and assets to create value. These businesses operate in areas such as Metering, Grain LNG Import, Interconnectors and Property. National Grid Carbon Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid and it undertakes Carbon Capture Storage related activities on behalf of National Grid.

**National Grid in the US:**

- ? In the northeast US, we connect more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for our modern lifestyles.
- ? National Grid delivers electricity to approximately 3.3 million customers in Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island.

It is the largest distributor of natural gas in northeastern U.S., serving approximately 3.4 million customers in New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

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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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