

# Thousands of homes using unsafe gas appliances

National Grid calling for people to get annual checks

13 Nov 2014

## Thousands of homes across the North West potentially using unsafe gas appliances

Thousands of households across the North West could be using unsafe gas appliances every day without even knowing it.

Around one in six homes were found to have an unsafe appliance when inspections were carried out. Figures show that in some postcode areas of Preston, Blackpool, Barrow, Chester, Southport, St Helens, Manchester, Blackburn, Bury, Liverpool, Halton, Bolton and Warrington, hundreds of homes had unsafe appliances. (Local figures available from press officer, contact below).

Now National Grid, which runs the gas distribution network across the UK, is hoping to raise awareness of the potentially life-threatening problems this can cause by directing people to the Gas Safe Register website where postcode area analysis shows just how many unsafe appliances have been found.

The figures have been collated with the help of information supplied by National Grid engineers following their attendance at emergency incidents.

'It is extremely worrying that literally hundreds of cookers, fires and boilers are found to be faulty and dangerous in a single postcode area,' said Ian Palfreyman, Head of Operations for National Grid.

'We would urge everyone who has gas appliances in the home to make sure they have them checked on a 12-month basis by a Gas Safe Registered engineer.'

Unsafe appliances could lead to leaks, incidents of carbon monoxide poisoning or even fires and explosions. National Grid is seeking to draw attention to the risks as Carbon Monoxide Awareness week gets underway on Monday 17 November.

'We are committed to the safe delivery of gas supplies to homes in towns and cities across the North West, and are keen to ensure that householders stay safe when using it,' Ian added.

Across the North West as a whole, some one in six households were found to have an unsafe appliance when inspected.

**Follow these simple checks to stay gas safe:**

- **Always use a Gas Safe registered engineer when having gas work carried out in your home. You can find a registered engineer in your area by calling Gas Safe Register on 0800 408 5500 or visit [www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk](http://www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk)**
- **Get your gas appliances safety checked at least once a year and serviced in line with the manufacturer's instructions. This includes your gas boiler, gas cooker and gas fire. Sign up at [www.staygassafe.co.uk](http://www.staygassafe.co.uk) for a free reminder service.**
- **Check the front and back of your engineer's Gas Safe Register ID card, making sure they are qualified to do the specific type of gas work you require.**
- **Install an audible carbon monoxide alarm which will alert you if dangerous levels are present in your home.**
- **Check for warning signs your appliances aren't working correctly, such as lazy yellow or orange flames instead of crisp blue ones, black marks on or around the appliance and too much condensation in the room.**
- **If you have a gas-related emergency, please call 0800 111 999 to report it.**

**For more information or to find Gas Safe registered engineer visit [www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk](http://www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk) or call 0800 408 5500.**

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### 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>

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