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## **Record low incidents of Carbon Monoxide poisoning from piped natural gas according to GST's latest Downstream Incident Data Report**

For the first year since 1996, there were no fatalities from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning relating to piped natural gas and piped Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) incidents, according to The Gas Safety Trust's (GST) [Downstream Incident Data Report statistics](#) for 2017-18. Overall, the report recorded five separate incidents, involving six non-fatal injuries and one fatality — a man in his 80s caused by a solid fuel space heater.

This sadly follows an emerging trend over the last few years of fatalities amongst older people involving older appliances. Support to those vulnerable customers is available via the priority services register (PSR), which is a free and voluntary system that suppliers and networks use to ensure the correct support is given to those in need.

Chris Bielby, Chairman of the GST said:

*"It is pleasing to see that there were no deaths from piped natural gas this year, however it is important that we don't become complacent. There will still be five non-fatal injuries and, while these low figures are due to the efforts of the gas industry to address the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning over many years, we want these numbers to be at zero.*

*What's more, it is with great sadness that has been another fatality recorded by the DIDR data collection this year. Once again, we are seeing an emerging trend of older people being poisoned. This chimes with other work we are funding elsewhere which is identifying vulnerable older people and those in fuel poverty as particularly at risk.*

*We would urge people to make sure that their appliances are serviced by a Gas Safe registered engineer and that an audible CO alarm tested to the standard EN 50291 is installed as a second line of defense."*

The DIDR statistics, published today (XX March 2019), collates data relating to accidental CO poisoning incidents in Great Britain associated with the use of mains natural gas and piped LPG in the home.

Since 2011, information, albeit less extensive than that for mains gas, has also been collected concerning CO incidents associated with the domestic use of solid fuel and oil.

The report is published annually in March.

The GST, set up in 2005, is the UK's leading gas safety research charity and has in recent years refocused its strategy on funding several strands of CO related research, to provide the underpinning empirical evidence that supports improved awareness and understanding of the effects of CO.

ENDS

Notes to editors

### **About Carbon Monoxide**

Carbon monoxide is a gas formed during the incomplete combustion of any carbon-based or fossil fuel (e.g. gas, coal, oil, wood, charcoal etc) which happens when there is insufficient oxygen caused by poor ventilation.

### **About the Gas Safety Trust**

The Gas Safety Trust, established in 2005 as a registered charitable body, has become the UK's leading fuel safety charity with the key objectives of further improving fuel safety for the public and industry throughout



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the United Kingdom and reducing the incidents of death and serious injury from carbon monoxide exposure. The Gas Safety Trust is generously funded by the gift aided profits of CORGI Services Limited, [www.corgiservices.com](http://www.corgiservices.com).

#### **About the GST CO Portal**

The Gas Safety Trust (GST) has created an online carbon monoxide (CO) portal, which is the central repository for data and information relating to CO in the UK. The portal was launched in January 2015. The Portal has three main sections Legislation and Standards, which include information on Regulations, Standards, Guidance and Codes of Practice, Academic References, which is a searchable reference library of academic papers relating to CO and Data and Documents, which contains reports and other general information on CO, [www.coportal.org](http://www.coportal.org).

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