



## Think CO Programme Autumn 2024 E-newsletter



*Welcome to the Autumn 2024 Think CO e-newsletter from the Gas Safe Charity. Autumn certainly seems to have arrived early this year and may have taken people by surprise. Many boilers and gas appliances may not have yet had their annual service; chimneys and flues may not have yet been swept – all of which increases the risks of CO.*

*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.*

*Now in its fourteenth year, below are details of Gas Safety Week and its free resources. Run by the Gas Safe Register, the Week is dedicated to raising awareness of gas safety to help the nation stay safe.*

*We continue to provide Think CO online training (**there are Zoom workshops available all the way through to Christmas**) - book here: [Free Think CO workshop](#)), plus face-to-face workshops are planned for some parts of the UK later this autumn – see if there's one near you, details below.*

*Simon and Hilary*

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## Gas Safety Week 2024 – 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> September Checking – Every Check Counts



In its fourteenth year, Gas Safety Week (GSW24) this year focuses on making every Check Count whether that's checking the ID of a Gas Safe registered engineer at your door or checking that loved ones and neighbours are OK or checking that your CO alarm is working. Every check counts, no matter how big or small.

There's a range of **free resources** available for you to use all year round enabling you to know more about gas safety, and also to share with your clients - [download](#)

[from the GSW website.](#)



### Gas Safety Week 2024 video

Watch the GSW24 tongue-in-cheek video with a heartfelt message. The film highlights the inconvenience that a broken gas appliance can have on our daily lives and reminds consumers why regular gas checks are so important. You might recognise the person behind the voice over! Don't miss it – you can watch it by clicking [here](#).

The Gas Safe Charity and Think CO were well represented at the launch of Gas Safety Week at the Houses of Parliament at the start of the week.



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### Zoom workshops



# Think CO Programme

## Autumn 2024

### E-newsletter



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

They'll 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 partner organisations you work with as well.

Let us know if your organisation would be interested. Contact [thinkco@gassafecharty.org.uk](mailto:thinkco@gassafecharty.org.uk) for more information.

Join a Meeting

Sign In

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## Face-to-Face workshops - CO in a Cost-of-Living Crisis Workshops



Working in partnership with Wales & West Utilities and SGN, plus local Fire & Rescue Services and charities, Think CO is running four face-to-face workshops this autumn.

All the workshops are free with the aim of helping you to know what support is available to help your vulnerable clients as the cost-of-living crisis continues, including how to be carbon monoxide aware.

Aimed at front-line staff and volunteers who deliver services in the homes of vulnerable people in person or over the phone, the free workshop will train you in how to spot the dangers and safety risks of carbon monoxide poisoning so you can make your clients more CO aware, as well as gain information and find out more about the resources available to help vulnerable people, including your Energy Supplier's Priority Services Register.

The schedule of workshops is below along with links to book on them:



## Think CO Programme

### Autumn 2024

### E-newsletter



Glasgow - Elim Church – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 10.00-2.00

[Glasgow workshop - 29th October](#)

Edinburgh - Changeworks – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 10.00-2.00

[Edinburgh workshop - 30th October](#)

Gloucester – SkillZone – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 10.00-2.00

[Gloucester workshop - 6th November](#)

Newport – Llandevauld Hall – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 10.00-2.00

[Newport workshop - 20th November](#)

Please get in touch if you'd be interested in running a face-to-face workshop with us - [thinkco@gassafecharity.org.uk](mailto:thinkco@gassafecharity.org.uk)

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## Coal pods and CO

Colleagues in Cadent tell us that their engineers and fire service colleagues are finding more people are using coal pods, discs or burning fragranced wood chips. All have a CO risk linked with them and should always be used in a well ventilated room.

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## One in five homeowners have never had a gas safety check

Research from the Office for National Statistics and shared in an article in “Today’s Conveyancer” reveals that a worrying one in five UK homeowners have never had a gas safety check carried out on the gas appliances within their home.



While there is no legal obligation for a homeowner to have an annual gas safety check, it's highly recommended and along with having a fitted, working CO alarm is top of Think CO's “Top Tips” for CO safety. Any gas appliance could leave you at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning if faulty.

To read the article, click [here](#)



Landlords across the UK, both private and social, have to carry out an annual gas safety check by law.

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## Pack Safe Appeal is launched



As highlighted in the last e-newsletter, this summer has seen the launch of the Pack Safe Appeal.

On the 30 August 2023, Hudson Foley tragically died of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning while staying in Homestay accommodation in Quito, Ecuador at just 24 years of age.

Backpackers like Hudson who travel abroad, are often unaware of the health and safety risks in the places they stay. Hudson Foley's passing is the latest tragedy in the dark history of Britain's passing away from CO poisoning while holidaying abroad.

The Pack Safe Appeal: Hudson's campaign for carbon monoxide travel safety exists because of a tragic, avoidable accident. Its work is inspired by Hudson's life. Its mission is to raise awareness of the dangers of CO and to prevent unnecessary loss of life, particularly among the young person travelling community.

The overall campaign goals are to ensure holiday providers check CO safety in accommodation and that young backpackers and holiday makers pack CO alarms.

To learn more about the campaign and where to buy travel CO alarms, click [Pack Safe Appeal](#)

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## NBC News CO and Airbnb campaign

Think CO has been raising the issue of taking a CO alarm with you when you travel from the start of our work. Companies like Airbnb ask that all listings be equipped with smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms if the listings have fuel-burning devices. For active Airbnb Hosts, Airbnb will even cover the cost of a carbon monoxide alarm. However, this news piece from NBC in America highlights some of the ongoing issues.



[NBC Airbnb and CO](#)

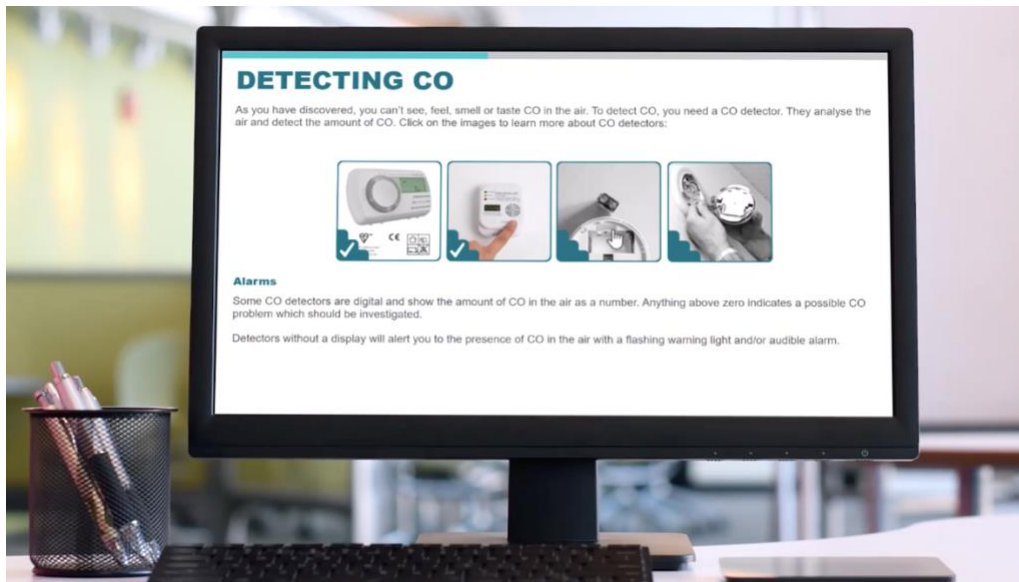
Always check if any holiday property you or your clients are renting has a CO alarm in it and take one with you in your bag or in the hold if it doesn't.

## Customised e-learning package

Over the last couple of years, Think CO has worked with organisations to develop e-learning courses customised for that organisation. We agree a customised introductory section, with the organisation's branding throughout the package and then develop relatable case studies in partnership with the organisation. The core e-learning package that we use in our e-learning is included and remains the same. Recent organisations we have worked with include the National Fire Chiefs Council and, as shared below, the Scouts.

We've just produced this video about the customised package and how it works – click on the link below and have a look....

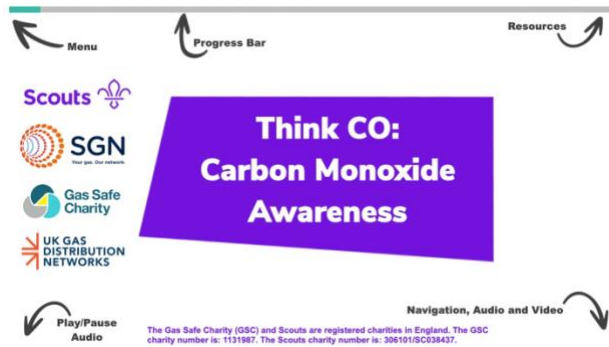
[Customised e-learning video for your organisation](#)



A customised e-learning package is cheaper and quicker to produce than you might think - if you're interested, get in touch with us at [ThinkCO@gassafecharity.org.uk](mailto:ThinkCO@gassafecharity.org.uk)



## The Scouts e-learning course



Linked to the article above, we have worked with the Scouts and SGN to develop a customised e-learning course. Targeted at Scout leaders, the course will be available to all leaders when the Scout's new Learning Management System is up and running this November.

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:thinkco@gassafecharity.org.uk)

### Materials

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