



Welcome to the Summer 2026 Think CO e-newsletter from the Gas Safe Charity.

So much of the UK has been (meltingly) hot over the last fortnight, with more heat forecast, and some of the coverage has made me Think CO.....

Though the summer period sees fewer cases of CO poisoning (no heating on, more salads, less cooking), the official signs of heat exhaustion rang bells -

Headaches, Tiredness, Nausea,  
Dizziness, Confusion



All classic signs of low-level CO poisoning as well as heat exhaustion.

The main ask of Think CO is talk with your clients about CO. If they mention these symptoms, then CO may be the reason they feel so bad. It is far more likely, that they are too hot in their home, but if they are cooking using a gas cooker or camping stove indoors or have brought a Bar BQ inside, then double check.

To keep the summer theme going, a checklist for CO and the summer covering holidays, backpacking, boats, tents and camping is on the next page.

One of the ways that you can keep up-to-speed with your CO knowledge is to do the Think CO Test. We've already had feedback from people who have joined us for an online workshop that they did the test and realised that they needed a top-up of their CO knowledge. Take the test by clicking here [Think CO Test](#) Use the password "Think" to access it.

And remember, Think CO has a wide range of free resources available for you and your colleagues to enable you to talk with your clients about CO:

- Online workshops - [Think CO Online Workshops - How to Book](#)
- E-learning (email us at [e-learning@gassafecharity.org.uk](mailto:e-learning@gassafecharity.org.uk))
- Face-to-face workshops (email us [thinkco@gassafecharity.org.uk](mailto:thinkco@gassafecharity.org.uk))
- Guides, leaflets and videos

## Hilary



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## CO and summer

It's a fact that CO poisonings happen more in the autumn and winter, but CO is a year-round risk. The risks in summer come mainly from holiday accommodation, Bar BQs, outdoor camping stoves and even petrol and diesel generators.

### Holidays

If you're going on holiday, always check that your accommodation has a CO alarm fitted in the right place and that it is in-date (not older than 10 years). Look out for the classic warning signs on cookers and boilers – brown sooty marks, lazy orange flame instead of a strong blue flame.



All rented accommodation in the UK which has carbon-based, fixed combustion appliances (other than only a gas cooker if you're in England or Scotland) in it, must have a fitted, working CO alarm by law. This includes holiday homes and lets, caravans, chalets etc... and the appliances should have been serviced in the last year.

If you're travelling abroad or in this country and you don't think your accommodation has a CO alarm, take one with you in your luggage.

### Pack Safe appeal



If you or someone you know is backpacking, look for advice from the Pack Safe Campaign. Set up after the tragic death of Hudson Foley from CO whilst backpacking in South America, the campaign encourages everyone to "Think CO" whilst backpacking and offers discounted CO detectors.

Remember, there is no universal standard for CO, so laws, regulations and policies vary from country to country.

For more information including about the discount, click here [Pack Safe Campaign](#)

### Tents and camping

Even when you are enjoying the great outdoors in a tent, there are CO risks. Never bring charcoal grills, disposable Bar BQs, or gas/fuel-burning camping stoves inside a tent, awning, or cabin.



Petrol or diesel generators have a significant CO risk linked to them and should never be inside or even near your tent or caravan.





## Boats



And think about CO when you are mucking around on a boat. Boat engines and generators, even when idling, can cause CO to pool on swim decks and in cabins.

## At home

Gas boilers are still working in the summer if they are used to heat water in your home. Fit and maintain your CO alarm and ensure your home is well ventilated and that your boiler was serviced in the last 12 months.



## APPCOG Summer campaign



The All Party Parliamentary CO Group (APPCOG) is launching its CO and the summer campaign this month. Look out for information about the campaign on your social media feeds, online and from wherever you get your news.

## Renters' Rights Act in England

The Renters' Rights Act came into force of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026 in England. It reinforced compliance with many key safety frameworks including CO alarms and a landlord's duty to ensure an annual gas safety certificate for all properties they rent out.

**CO Alarms** - by law, all landlords must install CO alarms in any room used as living accommodation that contains a fixed combustion appliance (gas boilers, log burners, and oil heaters).

Disappointingly, gas cookers remain exempt in the legislation.

**Repair and Replacement:** Tenants remain responsible for testing CO alarms on a monthly basis, but the law requires landlords to repair or replace any faulty CO (or smoke alarm) as soon as they are told that it isn't working.



### The Renters' Rights Act Information Sheet 2026

From 1 May 2026, the Renters' Rights Act 2025 will give tenants new rights and introduce new rules for private landlords. This information sheet explains how the new rules may affect your current tenancy.

These changes only affect you if you are a tenant in the private rented sector with an assured or assured shorthold tenancy. If you live in social housing or you are a lodger, the new rules will not usually apply to you.

These rules have been introduced by law. Your landlord cannot put anything into a tenancy agreement to change or disapply them.

This document is only a summary of the changes. The new rules may change or impact your tenancy in a way not described below. The new rules apply to your tenancy automatically, even if your landlord does not update your tenancy agreement.

If you do not have a written tenancy agreement or any written record of the tenancy's terms, then your landlord must provide you with certain written information on or before 31 May 2026.





The **Decent Homes Standard** is reinforced which states a landlord's duty to ensure heating appliances are safely maintained, regularly serviced, and free from safety hazards. This includes the annual gas safety check.

Local authorities have the powers to strictly enforce these standards. Landlords who fail to comply, can face civil penalties of up to £5,000 per breach.

(Because housing is a devolved matter, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland maintain their own separate rental laws.)

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## Think CO Quiz

As well as the Think CO online workshops and the e-learning course - more information below about how to book onto them – we recently launched the Think CO Training Needs Analysis.

It's a quick 10 question quiz that tests how much you know about CO.

The idea is that you can use it as part of a team meeting or briefing.

You can pass it on to colleagues perhaps new in their role to see how much they know.

Or you can use it as a quick reminder for yourself.

Click on this link [Think CO Test](#) and use the password "Think" to access it.

Once done, it will take you to the Gas Safe Charity website where you can download guides, book onto workshops and the e-learning so you can top up your knowledge and gain CO confidence when talking with the people you support.



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## Resource and Support Guides from Think CO

The Think CO Programme is always developing and adding new resources to our guides and information. Earlier this year, we launched our updated guide and added a new one. Both are free to download.

### Support Guide



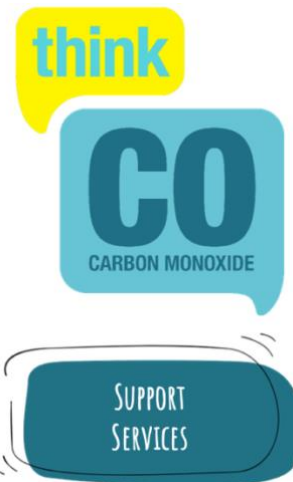


The Think CO Support Guide is an interactive guide which lists 33 sources of possible help and support, including potential funding, for you to use with your clients.

We often get asked where to go for help with cost-of-living support or places to approach to fund a boiler, and this guide aims to list organisations cross the UK where help is potentially available.

To access, click on the link below and download it.

[Support Services 2026.pdf](#)



### Resources and Information Guide

There is also an updated version of the Think CO Resources Guide. This accompanies any workshop that we run online or face-to-face, plus it is downloadable as a resource on our e-learning course.



The Guide has information on and links to the Gas Safe Register, the Priority Services Register and CO alarms and lots of other CO related information.

You can click on this link to download it:

[Think CO Resources and Useful Information 2026.pdf](#)

Both guides are available for download from the Gas Safe Charity website or you can email us at [thinkco@gassafecharity.org.uk](mailto:thinkco@gassafecharity.org.uk) and ask for either or both to be emailed to you.





## Other Free Think CO Resources

### Zoom workshops

**For you** – we continue to run free, hour-long online Think CO workshops every month with the current schedule taking us through to the end of September 2026.

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



Join a Meeting

Sign In

### [Think CO Online Workshops - How to Book](#)

**For your organisation** - we can run free Zoom Think CO workshops just for your organisation. 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](mailto:thinkco@gassafecharity.org.uk) for more information.

### E-learning course

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. It's accredited for your learning and development portfolio, and you can download a transcript of the course once you've completed it.



### Face-to-face workshops

We continue to run face-to-face workshops for organisations or teams of people. They can be open to just your staff and volunteers, or they can be opened up to staff/volunteers from partner organisations. They last about 2.5 hours. If you'd like to discuss a workshop with us, please email [thinkco@gassafecharity.org.uk](mailto:thinkco@gassafecharity.org.uk)

## CO and gas awareness leaflets in community languages

With thanks to colleagues at SGN and East Kent Mencap, we have built upon their work and developed 15 leaflets in a range of community languages. The leaflets highlight both CO and gas safety.

You can download any or all of the leaflets from the Gas Safe Charity's website via this link [Think CO Guides](#). Scroll to the bottom of the landing page and click on "Information leaflets"





## Videos in community languages

A quick reminder that the Programme worked with Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service and a range of community groups to produce CO awareness videos in Hindi, Bangla, British Sign language and English. The films are subtitled as well.

- Signed/subtitled Think CO film: [Signed Subtitled video](#)
- CO Awareness Film in Hindi and subtitled in English: [Video in Hindi with English subtitles](#)
- CO Awareness film in English with English subtitles: [Video in English with English subtitles](#)
- CO Awareness film in Bangla with English subtitles: [Video in Bangla with English subtitles](#)

