

August 2012

Edition No. 27

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Starting Monday 19th Nov

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Starting Friday 28th
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Starting Friday 5th April
2013

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Ok, so it's unlikely that many of you reading are students, but that's not to say you don't know a few. With September fast approaching and students getting ready to move into their new homes for the year, chances are Gas Safety isn't their top priority. Statistically however, 15 people every year die from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning and with symptoms that so closely match those of a hangover students are a high risk group.

By law, your landlord has to make sure that the gas appliances supplied in your rented accommodation are safe for you to use, but if in any doubt (or even if you're not) you can buy an audible carbon monoxide alarm to alert you to danger – you can buy a battery operated one at any DIY store and take it to every property you live in.

To be safe and legal your landlord must carry out an annual gas safety check and regular service on gas appliances in your home including gas boilers, cookers, hobs and gas fires. These checks must be carried out using a Gas Safe registered engineer. They must also provide you with a landlord's gas safety record (also known as a certificate) for the gas appliances.

Remember to always:

- Check the ID card of any gas engineer that comes to do work in your home.
- Cooperate with your landlord and let a Gas Safe registered engineer in when a gas safety check or service has to be done.

If you want more information to pass it on to a student-type you can get it from www.gassaferegister.co.uk/pdf/Student_factsheet_oct_11%20.pdf, alternatively there's loads of information on www.hse.gov.uk/gas/domestic/newschemecontract.htm and www.gassaferegister.co.uk.

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Fairground Fun

What with the lovely weather that we'll all be having once the schools start again you might be tempted to take the little 'uns to the fair. But with those big rides and all that noise, how do you know it's safe? Statistically you are actually more likely to be injured travelling to the fair than at it, having said that there are a few top tips;

- Look at the machines. Do they look clean, tidy and well presented? If they can't be bothered cleaning it, can they be bothered to maintain it?
- Take note of safety warnings. Fences and exclusion zones are there to keep you away from the dangers of fast moving machinery. Remember, children might not judge this the same way we do.
- Don't try to 'beat' height restrictions. Restrictions are in place because the seats are designed to hold people of certain sizes in the machine. If riders are too big, too small, too thin etc they may not be held into the machine and can be seriously hurt.



For more useful tips, have a look at

www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/fairgrounds/keeping-children-safe.htm

Sun Protection

Sticking with the summery theme (mostly out of desperation that it will happen), a question we get asked a lot is 'do we have to give employees who work outside during the summer, sun cream.' The short answer is no, there's no legal obligation to do so. However, that doesn't mean you can forget about it all together. There are other measures you can, and should, look at to protect your employees and these all form part of your risk assessments. Options may include:

- Including skin protection advice in routine health and safety training
- Encourage workers to cover up during summer months, long-sleeved shirts and wide brimmed hats are great for this. If you supply a uniform, consider this in its design.
- Encourage workers to use sun cream with a SPF (sun protection factor) 15, and take their breaks in the shade.
- Consider scheduling work to minimise exposure. Could you start an hour early?
- Site water points in the shade, and encourage workers to drink plenty to avoid dehydration

It'll be good for you in the long run too, less days off with sunburn and a healthier work force long term. For more information see <http://www.hse.gov.uk/temperature/>



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