



Safety in Scouting in Berkshire



BERKSHIRE SAFETY GUIDANCE SHEET

Gas Appliances

Introduction

The safe use of gas fired equipment

Regulations

The Gas Safety (Installation & use) Regulations 1998

Gas fired equipment requires regular inspection and examination to comply with statutory regulations normally annually, however, this will not ensure the appliance is safe to use throughout its working life until the next inspection. ALL users of gas fired equipment must be vigilant to ensure their own and other users safety.

Gas leakage.

If for any reason you or any other person suspects they can smell gas, you must act.

Contact Transco using the emergency number 0800 111 999

Follow their guidance

Isolate the gas supply at the gas meter if it is safe to do so using the emergency control

Open doors and windows

Extinguish all naked flames

Do not smoke

Do not operate any electrical switches *on or off*

Evacuate the building

Gas fumes

This is far more difficult to confirm. The signs and symptoms of exposure to the products of combustion (burnt gas) are many and varied, they closely resemble the symptoms of flu for persons exposed to fumes and may experience:-

A dry throat

Sore eyes

Headache

Sleepiness

Listless / tiredness

Pains in the chest and / or stomach

The appliance and its location may show signs of:-

The gas flame being yellow or orange

The external casing discoloured or stained

There may be signs of discolouration or staining around the casing or on the walls and / or ceilings in the vicinity of the appliance.

Signs of soot forming around the appliance or its flue terminal

Source. HSE guidance & The Gas Safety (Installation & Use) Regulations 1998

If you experience exposure to these symptoms you must act without delay.

Contact Transco using the emergency number 0800 111 999

Follow their instructions and advice

Isolate the gas supply at the gas meter

Open doors and windows evacuate the building

Never use a gas appliance if you think it is not working properly.

Signs to look out for include yellow or orange flames, soot or stains around the appliance and pilot lights which frequently blow out

Never cover an appliance or block the convection air vents

Never block or obstruct any fixed ventilation grilles or air bricks

Never block or cover outside flues

Always err on the side of safety, carbon monoxide poisoning kills around 30 people annually and is known as the silent killer for good reason.

You cannot see it

You cannot taste it

You cannot even smell it

You do not want to experience it

Source. HSE guidance & The Gas Safety (Installation & Use) Regulations 1998

This Safety Guidance Sheet has been adapted with permission from that prepared by Tom Handy for Oxfordshire St John Ambulance

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