



WIN A FREE CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

# CARBON MONOXIDE



# THE INVISIBLE THREAT

Every parent wants to keep their child safe – but how do you protect them from a hazard that's invisible? If your gas fire, boiler or cooker is faulty, it may be leaking poisonous carbon monoxide fumes into your home – a gas you can't see, smell or taste.

## Stacey's story: the horror of her son's sudden death

When Stacey Rodgers popped into her son Dominic's bedroom at 10.30pm to say goodnight, he said 'Love you Mum' and Stacey replied 'Love you, I'll see you in the morning'. Stacey had no way of knowing this was the last time she would see her bubbly, energetic 10 year-old alive.

But when she came out of her bedroom in the morning Stacey knew instinctively that something was wrong. 'Normally I'd be coming out of my room and he'd be coming out of his – Dominic was a stickler for being on time,' she says. Stacey found her son in his normal sleeping position, but when she pulled back the duvet his body felt frozen and stiff. 'I started to panic,' Stacey recalls. 'I dialled 999 and the operator told me how to try and unblock his airways. I thought for a while I could hear Dominic's heartbeat but it was my own heart going so fast.'

The ambulance arrived very quickly and, in what seemed like a matter of seconds, Stacey's worst fears were confirmed by the paramedics. But it wasn't until much later in the day that she received an explanation

as to why her fit, football-loving son had died in his sleep.

'They told me it was carbon monoxide poisoning which was coming from the house next door,' Stacey says. 'There was a faulty boiler and the flue was in the wrong position. The gas was coming out into the alleyway. It had built up during the night and was seeping in through the walls of Dominic's bedroom.'

Since her son's death, Stacey has devoted much of her time to campaigning for greater awareness of the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. 'I just want people to make sure their gas appliances are checked and that they get a carbon monoxide detector fitted,' she explains. 'I would hate anyone else to go through the pain me and my family have gone through in losing Dominic.'



## WISE UP!

- if your gas fire, boiler or cooker is faulty, if your chimney or flue is blocked and if your home isn't properly ventilated, poisonous carbon monoxide can build up in it over time
- thankfully, childhood deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning are rare – 20 children are known to have died over the last ten years
- but low levels of the poisonous gas still cause headaches, sleepiness and concentration problems, and can result in long-term damage to a child's developing brain
- the early signs of carbon monoxide poisoning are hard to spot – because they include feeling tired, headachy, dizzy, sick and breathless, they are easily confused with flu
- signs that your gas appliance isn't working properly include: yellow or brown staining on or around the appliance; pilot lights that keep blowing out; gas flames burning yellow instead of their normal blue; more condensation than usual inside windows.

## PUT SAFETY FIRST BY

- getting your gas boiler, heater or cooker serviced every year by a CORGI qualified engineer – and making sure vents, flues and chimneys aren't blocked
- fitting a carbon monoxide alarm in any room where the poisonous fumes may be given off – this will warn you if they are reaching dangerous levels
- looking for a carbon monoxide alarm with a BSI Kitemark – this means it has passed stringent safety tests.



# QUIZ



**Check out your safety knowledge by trying our quiz. Simply circle the answer of your choice. You could win one of 50 prizes of a free carbon monoxide alarm, worth £20.**

- Children may be at greater risk from carbon monoxide poisoning than adults because their bodies are smaller and they breathe faster
  - True
  - False
- The symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are harder to spot in a child because children often find it hard to describe their symptoms
  - True
  - False
- Pets are often the first to be affected by carbon monoxide, so if your pet is sleepier than usual or showing signs of distress, carbon monoxide fumes may be escaping into your home
  - True
  - False
- Children suffering from low levels of carbon monoxide poisoning may find it hard to concentrate or remember things, and may have problems doing homework or schoolwork
  - True
  - False
- Long-term exposure to low levels of carbon monoxide may cause permanent damage to a child's brain
  - True
  - False
- If you ignore the signs of carbon monoxide poisoning in your home, it will go away
  - True
  - False

Please print clearly in BLOCK CAPITALS

name

address

postcode

telephone

**Send your completed entry in an envelope to:**

Child Safety Week Quiz,  
45 Station Road,  
North Harrow,  
Middlesex HA2 7SU

**Closing date: Friday 8 September 2006**

Winners will be notified by 9 October 2006



Child Accident Prevention Trust is a national charity committed to reducing the numbers of children killed, disabled or seriously injured in accidents. Each year, the charity organises Child Safety Week to spread safety messages to parents and children. To find out more about keeping children safe visit [www.capt.org.uk](http://www.capt.org.uk)



Ei Electronics is Europe's leading manufacturer of domestic smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, and a proud sponsor of Child Safety Week 2006.