



## Think CO Programme Spring 2024 E-newsletter



*Welcome to the Spring 2024 Think CO e-newsletter from the Gas Safe Charity.*

*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.*

*It is still early in the year and most people will continue to put their heating on when they can. We know that some vulnerable people will undertake unsafe heating practices, with associated CO and other risks. It's important to remain vigilant and look and listen for signs of CO risk. We continue to provide Think CO training (**some spaces available in March, as well as some new dates in April/- May- book here: [Free Think CO workshop](#)**), as well as face-to-face workshops in some parts of the country.*

*Simon and Hilary*

### CO Awareness Week 2023



Following a successful week last November, work is on-going to assess the impact of the publicity. Early indications are that the CO Awareness week has had its widest reach to date.

The range of resources and assets are all still available to download and use – just click on the link here: <https://www.coalarmssavelives.com/carbon-monoxide-awareness-week-23>

### Face-to-Face Workshops in Portsmouth (24<sup>th</sup> April) and Bristol (25<sup>th</sup> April)



The Gas Safe Charity is working in partnership with Wales & West Utilities and SGN to deliver two face-to-face workshops in their respective areas (Bristol and Portsmouth). The focus is mostly on carbon monoxide (sources, signs and symptoms, how to help prevent it etc...), but the workshops will also have input from the Gas Distribution Networks and local partner organisations, in particular Citizens Advice and Age UK. The workshops can be booked here: [BRISTOL](#) and [PORTSMOUTH](#).



## Think CO Programme

Spring 2024  
E-newsletter



We know that whilst people appreciate the convenience of a Zoom workshop, many welcome the opportunity to meet and interact with other organisations working to combat fuel poverty and raise CO awareness. We hope to continue with further face-to-face workshops in the future, so if you are interested in hosting one, please get in touch ([thinkco@gassafecharity.org.uk](mailto:thinkco@gassafecharity.org.uk))

### NEW Gypsy and Traveller's Zoom Workshop

We were delighted to run a Think CO Zoom workshop for workers who support Gypsy and Traveller communities. We realised our training had not reached these communities, so we made contact with the Friends, Families and Travellers' Charity. They are based in Brighton and from there, they were able to share the workshop details with a national network of, mostly, local authority staff who work closely with these communities. The workshop took place in mid-January, with just over 25 people participating. The attendees highlighted the risks associated with LPG gas, the need to inform landlords of their responsibilities to provide CO detectors when providing accommodation on their land. The plan is to run another of these Zoom workshops later in the year.



### Zoom Offer

We have run or are planning to run Zoom Think CO workshops for specific organisations including the National Energy Foundation, National Energy Action, Derbyshire Citizen's Advice and Kent County Council. The workshops are for your staff/volunteers only or partners you work with. If this would be of interest for your organisation, let us know. We expect a minimum of 25 attendees ([thinkco@gassafecharity.org.uk](mailto:thinkco@gassafecharity.org.uk)).

### Better Housing Better Health (BHBH) Webinars

Think CO is working with National Energy Foundation (NEF) Better Housing Better Health project to run monthly webinars on the topic of the "Energy Crisis and CO Awareness."

**Better Housing  
Better Health**  
The Warmth & Wellbeing Service



**HOME ENERGY ADVICE**

The webinar will introduce participants to the BHBH service and help them to identify signs of fuel poverty amongst any residents they are working with, and also raise carbon monoxide awareness.



## Think CO Programme

Spring 2024  
E-newsletter



The webinars will last about 90 minutes, are free to attend. The next webinar is on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00pm and the April “webinar” will be an in-person presentation as part of the Think CO face-to-face workshop in Portsmouth on 24<sup>th</sup> April (see above). If you are interested in attending the 24<sup>th</sup> March webinar, contact Charley Roberts on [charlotteroberts@nef.org.uk](mailto:charlotteroberts@nef.org.uk)

For more information about BHBH, please click on this link <https://www.bhbh.org.uk>

### NGN Research

Recent research from the Gas Distribution Network NGN ([NGN Research in Cumbria](#)) has highlighted the fact that there has been a 61% increase in actual and suspected CO incidents in Cumbria since 2021. This translates into 600 responses to households in the county.



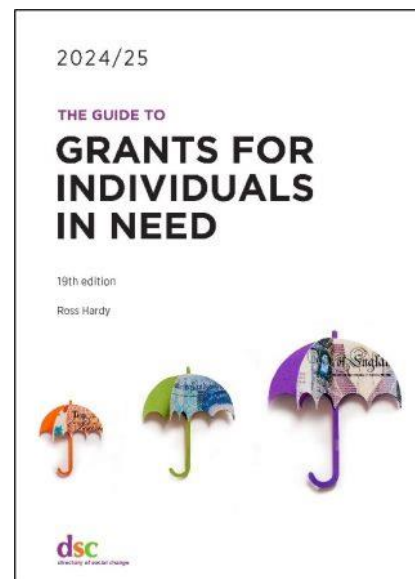
NGN believe that behind this alarming increase are the financial pressures of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, pushing the essential safety measures of CO alarms and appliance maintenance to the backburner for many households. Examples include a serious incident with a gas barbeque, as well as diesel generators being used during power cuts.

### Grants for Individuals

The Think CO Programme is often asked about where you can get grants for people in need. One of the resources we suggest is “The Guide to Grants for Individuals in Need” produced by the Directory of Social Change (DSC).

It’s aimed at helping you support individuals and families in emergency financial help. It has details of 1,800 grant making trusts and charities which give away £376 million a year. The 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the guide is now available to buy. To find out more about the guide and how to buy it click

<https://www.dsc.org.uk/publication/grants-individuals-need-2024-25/>





## Think CO Programme Spring 2024 E-newsletter



It's pricey at £110, so you may want to find out if your local authority has a copy you can access or your local Council for Voluntary Services (CVS).

### All Party Parliamentary Carbon Monoxide Group (APPCOG)



**Legislation: Renters Reform Bill** - APPCOG parliamentarians are reviewing the Renters Reform Bill with a view to strengthening provisions on health and safety standards, including protection against carbon monoxide poisoning. The Bill remains under scrutiny in the House of Commons.

**Decent Homes Standard update** - Updates to the Decent Homes Standard are expected to be published in the current winter session of Parliament. The updates will alter provisions of the standard applying to social housing, and through the Renters Reform Bill, will extend the standards to the private rented sector. The Decent Homes Standard sets minimum standards for the condition of homes and is currently only applicable to social housing.

**Think CO presented at “Delivering CO and Indoor Air Quality” Policy Connect roundtable** - Policy Connect has shared recommendations from the December 2023 “Delivering CO and Indoor Air Safety” roundtable to inform the next government’s work on CO protection and prioritising issues of CO poisoning in housing and health policy. The outcomes have also been shared with the Cross-Government Working Group on Gas Safety and Carbon Monoxide Awareness to inform the Government’s support for frontline services in protecting CO safety.

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### Think CO resources – all free

#### E-learning and Zoom workshops

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.

There is a schedule of one-hour Zoom workshops available through to June 2024. To book on click on this link: [Free Think CO workshop](#)

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)



# Think CO Programme

## Spring 2024

### E-newsletter



#### **Materials**

We have a range of guides/leaflets that can be downloaded via this link: [Gas Safe Charity](#) Contact us on [thinkco@gassafecharity.org.uk](mailto:thinkco@gassafecharity.org.uk) if you have any questions.