Position Statement

Carbon Monoxide Safety

The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) is committed to making people safer in their homes using the skills, knowledge and experience of the Fire & Rescue Service (FRS).

People likely to be affected by Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning share many of the characteristics of those most likely to experience a fire in the home.

The NFCC recognises that although many organisations collect information relevant to CO safety there is an incomplete picture of CO risk, exposure and response in the UK.

The NFCC recognises that regulation and standards relating to CO safety are not always clear, consistent and supportive of improved CO safety.

Some FRSs provide CO alarms as well as smoke, and heat alarms during home fire safety checks/visits. The NFCC supports FRSs who install CO alarms as part of a holistic home safety solution.

The NFCC will:

- Promote consistent CO safety messages to the public and partners that takes account of the level of risk and promotes safety whilst aiding health partners to more easily identify CO exposure.
- Promote the fitting of CO alarms in all rooms with fuel burning appliances (whether solid, liquid or gas fuel) in all property types
- Assist with the national collection of CO incident data by encouraging FRSs to collect and share data on the CO incidents they attend including (where possible):
    - information on where CO alarms were fitted
    - information on their effectiveness in raising the alarm
    - Categories of CO incident information according whether they were a false alarm, CO incident no injury, CO incident injury, CO incident fatal.
    - Record the source of the CO and cause
- Work with the fire industry, partners and suppliers such as the Gas Safety Trust (GST), Gas Safety Register, National Association of Chimney Sweeps and the Council of Gas Detection and Environmental Monitoring (CoGDEM) to;
    - promote the inclusion of CO alarms in home safety systems, integration with other alarms types, reduce costs, and increase connectivity between systems/devices.

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- increase the use of sealed for life battery CO alarms that replace the detection element when batteries are replaced.
- Increase the use of CO alarms with easily available CO concentration information at the point of exposure to aid CO poisoning diagnosis.
- incorporate this new position into all NFCC work and lobby for this position to be reflected in all relevant standards, regulation and guidance.

Document End

V.3 replaces previous versions from September 2009 and May 2011

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