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## LAWYERS WARN TENANTS OF CARBON MONOXIDE RISKS

As Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week is launched today (16 November), a national campaigning group is reminding tenants in rented homes of their landlords' legal obligation to carry out safety checks on heating appliances.

As the number of people moving into rented homes increases,\* possibly as a result of the recession, the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) says it is vital that landlords make sure properties are safe, and that work on gas appliances is carried out by a Gas Safe registered engineer.

"In the UK, around 20 people die every year\*\* from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning caused by gas appliances and flues which have not been properly installed and maintained, or are poorly ventilated, and hundreds more are seriously injured," said Denise Kitchener, chief executive of APIL.

"Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless gas, emitted by appliances which burn fossil fuels such as gas, wood or oil," explained Denise. "It can seep into the home undetected which is why, in many cases, it is lethal. We want to remind tenants that landlords have a legal duty to ensure these appliances are safe and, if they are in any doubt about whether safety checks have been carried out, they should speak up."

Symptoms of CO poisoning include consistent tiredness, nausea, headaches, persistent cold-like symptoms, dizziness and chest pain.

Note to editors:

- Gas Safe register replaced the CORGI gas register in Great Britain and the Isle of Man on April 1 2009.
- Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week will be launched on Monday 16 November in the House of Lords. Visit [www.covictim.org](http://www.covictim.org) for more information.



- For more information contact Lisa Wardle, press and PR officer, at [lisa.wardle@apil.org.uk](mailto:lisa.wardle@apil.org.uk) or on 0115 9388715, or Jane Hartwell, assistant press and PR officer at [jane.hartwell@apil.org.uk](mailto:jane.hartwell@apil.org.uk), or on 0115 9388702.