

Toolbox Talk

31. Gas Work



What?

- Natural gas is used extensively throughout the UK for heating and cooking in both industrial processes and private dwellings. The gas under pressure is piped through to gas burners which are then ignited to provide the heat source for water systems and cooking appliances



Why?

- Gas can escape from the system due to faulty valves, insecure fittings and damaged equipment resulting in a build up of flammable gas which can result in explosion and fire
- Engineers must be qualified and registered to work on gas installations and should ensure that:
 - Individual gas installations are clearly identified
 - All gas work has been properly assessed and a strict safe system of work is implemented
- There is also the added risk of carbon monoxide(CO) poisoning caused by appliances and flues which have not been properly installed or maintained. On average 18 people die each year in the UK of CO poisoning due to faulty gas equipment

Do



- ✓ Ask personnel working on gas installations to show that they are registered to do the work
- ✓ Check gas supplies are securely locked off and tagged before commencing work
- ✓ Purge systems where there is a danger from residual gas
- ✓ Ensure maintenance and tests are undertaken to an approved standard
- ✓ Verify alterations are properly certified before the equipment is put back into use
- ✓ Keep accurate records of all maintenance, operation, tests and abnormal occurrences

Don't



- ✗ Apply excessive force or oil/grease threads when carrying out gas work
- ✗ Smoke near the work area
- ✗ Leave rubbish lying around
- ✗ Take short cuts
- ✗ Work on gas systems if you are not registered to do the work



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