

January 2013

CORGI News

Expect more from CORGI



CORGI Technical Services

New CORGI website goes live!

We are delighted to announce that the new CORGI Technical Services website has gone live! www.corgitechnical.com

With a modern design and layout, the new website makes it easier for visitors to find details about the courses and training we run, highlights the key services we can deliver in gas safety and offers advice and information to help visitors carry out their roles in gas safety management. There is also a section specifically about the Inter-Authority Gas Forum events. Please visit the site and let us have your feedback at tellus@corgitechnical.com

We have also launched a new website for the **Association of Gas Safety Managers – www.agsm.uk.com** – with a private area for Members. The site holds the latest information about the Gas Safety Management Conference on 24 April 2013 and details about how to make a booking. **N.B. The early bird discount runs out on 31 January 2013**



The CO poisoning storyline in Coronation Street has played an important role in helping to raise awareness of the dangers of this silent killer. Read the latest details about this below.

We wish you a Happy New Year!

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Gas Safety Management Conference – book now for early bird discount!

A full programme of top speakers has been arranged for the inaugural Gas Safety Management Conference which will take place on 24 April 2013 at The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield.

To take advantage of the early bird discount BOOK BEFORE 31 January 2013!

The Conference speakers include :-

- David Kidney, former MP and Minister for the Department of Energy and Climate Change and current Chairman of the Carbon Monoxide All Fuels Action Forum
- Chris Bielby MBE, President of the Association of Gas Safety Managers

- Charlie Norman, CEO of St Vincent's Housing Association
- Sally Roff, lawyer specialising in Corporate Manslaughter at DAC Beachcroft
- Stacey Rodgers, co-founder of the awareness campaign "Carbon Monoxide – Be Alarmed."
- Claire Heyes, Joint CEO of CORGI Technical Services

More details about the venue, the programme and how to book can be found at www.agsm.uk.com

Coronation Street CO poisoning storyline helps raise awareness of dangers

On New Year's Eve the long-running soap opera Coronation Street played a key role in helping to raise awareness of the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning by running a storyline in which one of the characters, Fiz Stape (played by Jenny McAlpine) collapsed and was rushed to hospital.

For a couple of days prior to her collapse, Fiz had complained of a headache, nausea and dizzy spells, which she put down to the flu. Whilst on the phone to her boyfriend Tyrone, who is a car mechanic, she collapsed and lost consciousness. Tyrone rushed over to her house and when it was clear that Fiz was suffering from more than flu she was rushed to hospital. There, it was confirmed that she had succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning.

A few days previously Tyrone had tried to fix her boiler when it wasn't working properly. He wasn't a qualified gas engineer and left it in a dangerous state. Since CO is an odourless gas with no taste, Fiz wasn't aware that the gas was escaping into her flat and gradually poisoning her. She didn't have a CO alarm fitted.

At hospital, once diagnosed, Fiz was rushed into a hyperbaric chamber, which is commonly used for treating divers for disorder such as the bends and for climbers suffering from altitude sickness. For people with gas poisoning, they receive

100% oxygen in the chamber and increased pressure which helps to eliminate toxic gas bubbles from the blood. Gradually the pressure and oxygen levels are rebalanced to normal air levels.

Fiz was lucky – she survived, although she is still receiving treatment in hospital. Tyrone may face prosecution for carrying out work on a boiler without having the relevant qualifications.

The storyline has been very good for raising awareness with the public of the dangers of CO poisoning. Coronation Street producers worked with the charity CO-Be Alarmed and the Gas Safe Register to get the facts and details correct. At CORGI Technical Services, we very much hope that this will encourage more people to be aware of the dangers of CO, to only use qualified gas engineers and to fit CO alarms in their homes.

www.agsm.uk.com

www.gassafetyconference.eventbrite.co.uk



In the News

Carbon Monoxide campaign groups reach deal with DCLG on CO safety - HVP - 20/11/12. [Read further](#)

First President of the Association of Gas Safety Managers announced - Installer online - 3/1/13. [Read further](#)

Illegal gas fitter fined for leaving elderly woman at risk - HVP - 20/12/13. [Read further](#)

Gas Safety Management Conference - HouseMark - 9/1/13. [Read further](#)

Contractor hit with £300K bill after CO poisoning - Inside Housing - 19/12/12. [Read further](#)



First President of the Association of Gas Safety Managers announced as Chris Bielby MBE



The First President of the Association of Gas Safety Managers is to be Chris Bielby MBE, who is currently the Director of New Energy & Stakeholder Engagement for the Scotia Gas Networks and a past President and Fellow of the Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers (IGEM).

The Association of Gas Safety Managers (AGSM) has been set up for managers in Social Housing and Facilities Management organisations who are responsible for all aspects of gas safety. The Association was been set up by CORGI Technical in response to a demand from gas managers for a professional Association which can address industry issues with key stakeholders and create one voice from the sector to key government departments. It also provides members with support, networking opportunities, training and many other benefits. All of the current 120 members are undertaking or have completed CORGI's VRQs in Gas Safety Management and collectively look after the gas safety management of over one million homes across the country.

Chris Bielby has spent the past 25 years tirelessly lobbying and canvassing support for gas safety issues, particularly around carbon monoxide as chairman of the Gas Industry Safety Group, Gas Safety Trust and the Gas Task Group. He was president of the Institution in 2005.

Joining the industry in 1972, Chris started his career as a gas engineer before moving into other operational and senior managerial roles. He is now the Director of New Energy & Stakeholder Engagement for the Scotia Gas Networks (SGN), an IGEM Industrial Affiliate (IA) member.

Claire Heyes, Joint CEO of CORGI Technical Services who founded the Association of Gas Safety Managers commented: "We are very pleased and proud of the appointment of Chris as President of the AGSM as he is very active in a wide range of groups in promoting gas safety. He will play a very valuable role in helping to develop the Association and will be an inspirational President."

Level 2 and 4 VRQ courses for 2013

The family of VRQ (Vocationally Related Qualifications) courses that we ran during 2012 have proved very successful and has led to a demand from clients for us to roll out the courses across other parts of the UK. We are delighted to publish the dates for these:-

Level 2 VRQ in Gas Safety Awareness in Social Housing

Course dates for the new Level 2 VRQ in Gas Safety Awareness in Social Housing are:-

- Manchester - 24 January 2013
- London - 31 January 2013
- North East - 7 February 2013
- Birmingham - 12 February 2013
- Bristol - 20 February 2013
- Glasgow - 15 May 2013
- Yorkshire - 13 June 2013
- North East - 19 September 2013
- North West - 17 October 2013

In-house courses can also be run on request.

Level 4 VRQ in Gas Safety Management for Social Housing course start dates:-

- Manchester - 13 Feb 2013
- Edinburgh - 26 Feb 2013
- Bristol - 5 March 2013
- North East - 14 March 2013
- London - 17 April 2013
- Birmingham - 17 July 2013
- Portsmouth - 11 September 2013

Level 4 VRQ in Gas Safety Facilities Management course start dates:-

- Manchester - 18 April 2013
- Birmingham - 12 June 2013
- North West - 18 July 2013
- London - 16 October 2013

In-house courses can also be run on request.

Details about how to book on the course can be found at:- **www.corgitechnical.com** or by contacting **training@corgitechnical.com** or 01256 548040

The dates for the next Regional Inter-Authority Gas Forum events are

Glasgow

Wed 27 Feb 2013
Wed 10 July 2013
Wed 20 Nov 2013

North East

Wed 6 Feb 2013
Tues 11 June 2013
Wed 30 Oct 2013

Yorkshire

Wed 30 Jan 2013
Wed 12 June 2013
Wed 16 Oct 2013

Midlands

Wed 13 Feb 2013
Wed 26 June 2013
Wed 13 Nov 2013

London

Wed 6 March 2013
Wed 3 July 2013
Wed 27 Nov 2013

South West

Wed 16 Jan 2013
Wed 15 May 2013
Wed 18 Sept 2013



Contact us at gasforum@corgitechnical.com if you would like to attend.

Your Feedback is needed!

We very much value your feedback on the VRQ courses, the Gas Forum events, the AGSM and any other aspects of the services we are providing. Please make comments using this email link tellus@corgitechnical.com and we will follow up.

CORGI Technical Services Ltd

CORGI Technical Services Ltd has over 30 years of technical expertise in all aspects of gas safety. With comprehensive site audits, training for employees, a new VRQ gas safety qualification, legal advice and expert witness testimony, CORGI works with local authorities, housing associations, private landlords, contractors, energy suppliers and the travel industry, to support them with their gas safety obligations, compliance and continued improvement.

www.corgitechnical.com

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