

# Guard against ...

Information which may  
save your life!

## THE SILENT KILLER



*Mary had a brush  
with the silent killer...  
and was able to tell us  
what happened to her!*

**>>> Read pages 2-3**



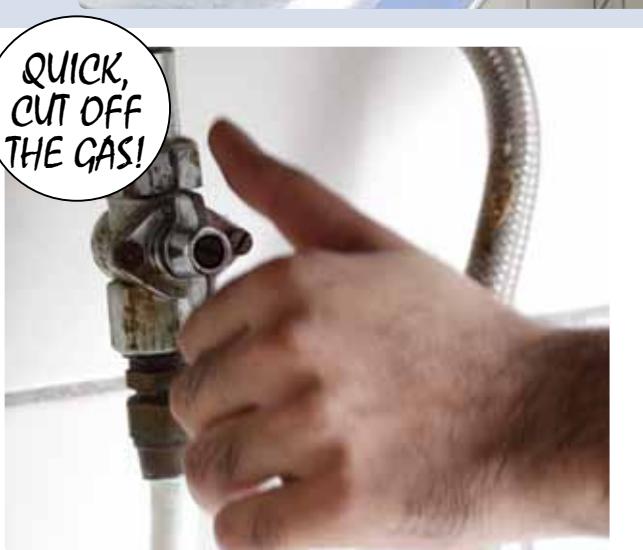
**Every year there are  
more than 1000 victims.  
Protect your family  
against CO poisoning!**

**>>> Find out all about the  
subject on page 4**





On this beautiful Sunday, the killer was waiting just behind the door...



YOU DID ALL THE RIGHT THINGS, SIR.  
FIRST, THE WINDOW SHOULD BE OPENED,  
THEN THE GAS CUT OFF AND THE VICTIM  
REMOVED FROM THE ROOM.

THANKS FOR SAVING MY LIFE! BUT I  
DON'T UNDERSTAND... IT HAPPENED  
SO FAST...

I FELT VERY TIRED, THEN I  
BELIEVE I HAD VERTIGO...



CO IS A SILENT KILLER...  
ONE DOESN'T NOTICE IT AND  
IT HAS NO SMELL.

ALL COAL-, WOOD-, OIL- OR  
GAS-FIRED APPLIANCES CAN  
GENERATE CO.

THEREFORE,  
ALWAYS ENSURE THAT  
THE HOUSE IS WELL  
VENTILATED!



YOU WERE LUCKY!

UNDERSTOOD!

LISTEN CAREFULLY!  
IF YOU SUFFER FREQUENTLY  
FROM HEADACHES, NAUSEA  
OR VERTIGO, YOU SHOULD  
SUSPECT THE PRESENCE OF  
CO IN THE ROOM.

A few  
days  
later...

THE FLAME SHOULD  
ALWAYS BE BLUE. A YELLOW  
FLAME POINTS TO INCOMPLETE  
GAS COMBUSTION. THIS CAN BE  
DANGEROUS!

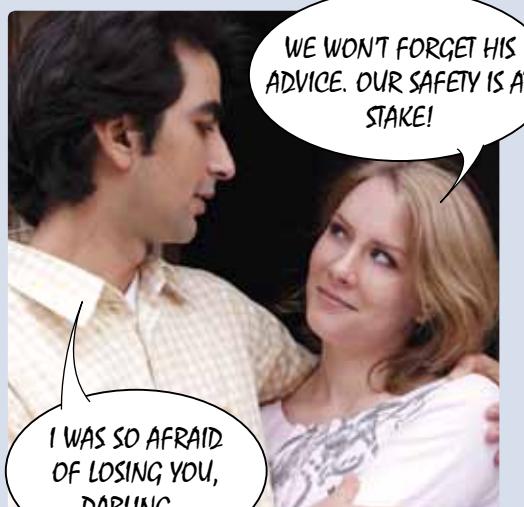
THERE YOU ARE! I HAVE SERVICED  
YOUR BOILER AND IT IS NOW WORKING  
PROPERLY AND EQUIPPED WITH A DIRECT  
VENT OUTSIDE.



TO ENSURE BETTER  
AIR CIRCULATION I  
HAVE INSTALLED A  
NON-BLOCKABLE  
GRID.



DON'T FORGET,  
TO ENSURE A GOOD DRAUGHT  
YOU SHOULD HAVE YOUR CHIMNEY  
CHECKED EVERY YEAR!



I WAS SO AFRAID  
OF LOSING YOU,  
DARLING...

WE WON'T FORGET HIS  
ADVICE. OUR SAFETY IS AT  
STAKE!

## ■ What is CO?

CO (carbon monoxide) is a gas that has no smell or taste, which can't be seen or felt, but is dangerous and one can die from its effects. Every year, more than 1,000 people in Belgium fall victim to CO poisoning.

All coal-, wood-, gas oil-, paraffin or gas-fired heating appliances can generate CO!  
Therefore, the danger lurks in your home, too.



## ■ How can it be avoided?

### ADEQUATE VENTILATION

- Is there a heating appliance or a boiler in the room? If so, install an adequate ventilation grid (150 cm<sup>2</sup>), or ensure that the room is always ventilated correctly.

### CHECKING THE CHIMNEY

- To ensure a good draught, have the chimney checked every year!

### GOOD AND PROPERLY SERVICED APPLIANCES

- Old appliances use up more fuel and can sometimes be dangerous!
- For a hand basin or a sink, use only a small (5-litre) boiler!
- Choose a heating appliance fitted with a spent gas evacuation duct.
- Have your appliances checked regularly by a specialist.



## ■ How can the danger of CO poisoning be detected?

### IN HUMANS AND ANIMALS

- Headaches
- Vomiting
- Tiredness
- Fainting

### IN THE HOME

- Presence of condensation on walls in the vicinity of a gas boiler
- Yellow flames instead of blue
- Abnormally high humidity

## ■ What should be done in the event of CO poisoning?

- Open all the doors and windows
- Switch off the appliance
- Has the victim lost consciousness? Dial 112.
- If the victim is conscious, remove them from the room
- Anti-poisoning Centre : 070 245 245

If you want additional copies of the booklet, you can order them by e-mail at [infodoc@ibz.fgov.be](mailto:infodoc@ibz.fgov.be) or by fax on 02 557 35 22. The booklet is also available on the website [www.besafe.be](http://www.besafe.be) (heading 'Publications')