

Natural Gas in the Household: Dangers, Accidents and Measures

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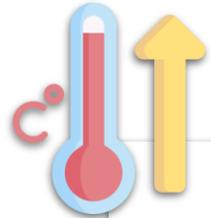
Each year around 250 people fall victim to the tasteless, odorless gas carbon monoxide

It is often a combination of several causes that lead to accidents involving gas appliances. This happens especially in summer when temperatures rise above 30 degrees.

KFV Study (Mai 2020):

- **Expert Interviews:** 10 Experts from different branches
- **Online Survey:** 500 persons from households with gas appliances
- **Legal survey:** mandatory maintenance in different Austrian states

Dangers



Heat

- Rising heat creates an imbalance between outside and inside temperatures
- Thermals can cause a backlog in the chimney hindering the escape of CO and CO₂ gasses



Air Conditioners

- Air conditioners and hood vents cause pressure difference between room and chimney
- When used simultaneously with the gas heater/boiler it can suck backlogged gasses from the chimney back into the room



Poor Maintenance

- Undetected defects caused by devices that are poorly maintained pose a potentially fatal risk in high heat
- Sensors could fail detecting gas build-up or leaks

Measures

Problem

Roughly 34% of all gas appliances are between 10 and 20 years old and 10% are older than 20 years.

Only 1/3 of users turn off air conditioners while showering

Over 1/3 of surveyed users don't know how to react to a gas leakage

60 % of households don't have a carbon monoxide detector

Solution

Newer appliances have better safety features and regular maintenance is a must for old and new appliances

Simultaneous usage of air conditioners or vent hoods while gas boiler is operating must be avoided

Awareness of the dangers, causes and measures must be raised

All households with gas appliances must be fitted with detectors and alarms