

MEDIA RELEASE

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Beat the rush and service gas heaters before winter

Victoria might be recording some of the warmest May weather on record but Energy Safe Victoria says this is a great time to beat the rush and service gas heaters before the cold weather sets in.

ESV recommends servicing all gas heaters a minimum of every two years to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning from faulty or underserviced units.

Victoria's Director of Energy Safety, Paul Fearon, said the present warmer conditions are an ideal opportunity to get ahead and service heaters before the cold arrives.

"We tend to see a rush of people wanting gasfitters to service their heaters when winter arrives - gasfitters get swamped with calls and it can take a while to arrange a service," said Mr Fearon.

"Now is a great time to beat the rush and arrange for a gasfitter to service your heater so you're ready when the cold conditions arrive."

Carbon monoxide is called the silent killer because you can't see it, taste it or smell it and it can spill from faulty gas heaters, potentially causing chronic illness or death if undetected.

More Victorians have been servicing gas heaters since the tragic deaths of Shepparton brothers Chase and Tyler Robinson in 2010. The boys died from carbon monoxide poisoning and their mother Vanessa was left permanently impaired.

However, Mr Fearon said many people still hold the misconception that only old heaters are affected and this is not the case. "All gas heaters need to be serviced by a registered gasfitter a minimum of every two years to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning," he said.

"This applies to every type of gas heater including wall units, central heating units and space heaters, whether they are old or new appliances."

Carbon monoxide can leak from gas heaters when dust or dirt builds up and flues become blocked or the combustion process does not properly occur. Gasfitters have the equipment required to check for carbon monoxide spillage and maintain heaters to minimise the risk.

"Find a local gasfitter and make it a habit to get your gas heater serviced regularly – this is the best way to minimise the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning."

Home owners with Cannon Fitzroy or Canterbury inbuilt gas heaters manufactured between 20 March 2001 and 8 October 2009 are reminded about the recent [safety notice](#) that was issued asking them to contact Cannon to get their heaters checked for carbon monoxide spillage.

More safety tips can be found at www.esv.vic.gov.au

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For further information or to arrange an interview:

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