

MEDIA RELEASE

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Free winter socks that could also save your life

More than 70,000 free pairs of winter socks will be given out by Energy Safe Victoria this weekend to remind Victorians to have their gas heaters serviced to prevent deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.

The red and blue socks will be a bonus gift with The Herald Sun this Saturday as part of ESV's Cold Feet campaign, which warns householders that "a faulty gas heater can leave you cold". ESV will also be giving out free socks and showbags at Westfield Southland Centre Court from Thursday 16 to Sunday 19 June.

Victoria's Director of Energy Safety, Paul Fearon, hopes the socks and the attached safety message will grab people's attention and spur them to contact a gasfitter if they haven't had their heater serviced in the last two years.

"The cold is definitely here and heaters will be getting a workout – when you're slipping into your new winter socks take a moment to recall when you last had your gas heater serviced," said Mr Fearon. "If it's been more than two years, arrange a local gasfitter to come and give it a service."

ESV recommends that all gas heaters are serviced a minimum of every two years to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning from poorly maintained units. 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.

"The best way to protect yourself and your family from carbon monoxide poisoning is to service gas heaters every two years," said Mr Fearon.

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.

"This safety advice applies for all gas heaters including wall units, central heating units and space heaters, whether they are old or new appliances."

Gas heater manufacturer Cannon recently issued a [safety notice](#) urging home owners with Cannon Fitzroy or Canterbury brand inbuilt gas heaters manufactured between 20 March 2001 and 8 October 2009 to have them checked for carbon monoxide spillage.

Gasfitters have the equipment required to check for carbon monoxide spillage and can service gas heaters to minimise the risk. 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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