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Leaseholder flat-owners please take care, be Gas Safe during Gas Safety Week next week from 12th – 18th September

The Federation of Private Residents Associations Ltd has today pledged support for the first national Gas Safety Week and is calling on leasehold flat owners and those responsible for the building to take care and be gas safe. To mark the week the Federation of Private Residents Associations will be using social media such as twitter and our own web-site to remind leaseholders of the dangers of not maintaining gas appliances with qualified engineers, and urging those with responsibilities for health and safety in blocks of flats to carry out a risk assessment for their building.

Gas Safe Register, the official list of registered gas engineers, is launching its first ever Gas Safety Week from 12th – 18th September, aiming to raise awareness of gas safety in the home.

Paul Johnston, chief executive at Gas Safe Register said:

“Every year, far too many people suffer from preventable gas related accidents, such as gas leaks, explosions, fires and carbon monoxide poisoning. In the last year alone

10 people died and a further 330 were hospitalised. With Gas Safety Week we want to encourage the public to only use Gas Safe registered engineers to fit, fix and service their gas appliances and to raise awareness of the importance of having an annual gas safety check.

“If maintained and installed properly, gas appliances are safe. If neglected, gas appliances can kill. In Gas Safety Week we want everyone to find out when they last had all of their gas appliances, including cookers, fires and boilers, checked. If this was over a year ago, you should get them checked by a Gas Safe registered engineer as soon as possible to help ensure your family and home are safe.”

Federation Chairman and member of the recent fire safety guidance reference group Bob Smytherman said:

“Gas Safety Week gives us the opportunity to put gas safety at the top of every flat owners and tenants priority list. Making sure your gas appliances are safe to use could save your life. Alongside Gas Safe Register we want people to understand the real risks gas poses and help those responsible for the health and safety of residents living in blocks of flats to take care and be gas safe.”

If someone other than a Gas Safe registered engineer carries out gas work at your home, you could be risking the safety of your family, your flat and the building.

For more information on gas safety go to www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk

- ENDS -

Notes to editors

- 10 people died from gas related incidents in the UK last year and 330 were hospitalised (Source: HSE Gas Safety Statistics 09/2010).

The new fire safety guidance published in July to improve fire safety in blocks of flats is available on the LG Group website via the web link below.

www.local.gov.uk/fire-safety-guidance

Or alternatively a copy of the guidance for fire safety in purpose built blocks of flats is available on request.

For more information about the Federation of Private Residents Associations

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Gas Safe Register is the government approved registration scheme for gas engineers in UK, Isle of Man and Guernsey. The register of over 120,000 gas engineers aims to protect the UK's 21 million gas consumers from dangerous gas work. It is a legal requirement for any gas engineering business or self employed gas engineer carrying out domestic and commercial gas work to be registered, and comply with the Gas Safety (Installation & Use) Regulations 1998.

Gas Safe Register assesses the competence of engineers on the register by inspecting a sample of the gas work they carry out to make sure they are safe to work on gas. Gas Safe Register is focused on gas safety and campaigns to raise awareness of gas safety risks, including those associated with using illegal gas workers.

Gas Safe Register deals with all aspects of the downstream gas industry covered by the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998. It covers both piped natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

Gas Safe Register replaced the CORGI gas registration scheme in Great Britain and Isle of Man on 1 April 2009 and in Northern Ireland and Guernsey on 1 April 2010. www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk

Follow Gas Safe Register on Twitter @GasSafeRegister and find us on Facebook.

The FPRA is a non-political, not-for-profit advice, support and lobbying organisation for our members who include private residential leaseholders, tenants' and residents' associations and residential management companies as well as those companies where the leaseholders together own the freehold of their own residential block.

This email was sent from The Federation of Private Residents Associations Ltd.

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