



BSS Examiner Monitoring Project – guidance in the event of a PS500 alarm activation

Boat owner report text and verbal script resource, in the event of a PS500 alarm activation

The following should be considered as a generic 'pick and mix' report text or verbal script prompt in the event your PS500 alarm activates. This guidance is in addition to the BSS procedures at Appendix A & B in the BSS Examiner Examination Checking Procedures covering people in 'immediate danger' or 'at risk', or if the boat is classified as 'immediately hazardous'. [BSS Warning Notice', LPG Warning Label, issue of the 'Carbon Monoxide Safety on Boats' leaflet].

If the PS500 alarm does activate, it is considered that there may be an added duty to inform, warn and 'call to action'.

The following generic text is relevant to CO alarm activation on you PS500, however other gas alarm activations should be treated in a similar way - inform, warn and 'call to action'.

In the event your customer is a tenant, please contact Graham Watts [07711 796417].

Warning and call to action

➡ in the event the PS500 alarms

The [...**name appliance, if identified...**] spilled sufficient quantities of carbon monoxide (CO) inside your boat to trigger the alarm on my personal gas detector, alerting me that I needed to immediately turn the appliance off and ventilate the cabin thoroughly. I have provided you with BSS Warning Notices however I must emphasise that you should not to use the appliance again until it has been repaired or replaced.

➡ if the owner has a CO alarm and it has previously activated

You have informed me that the CO alarm has previously activated. CO alarm activations are always a 'call to action' and should never be ignored. The BSS/CoGDEM leaflet titled 'Carbon Monoxide Safety on Boats' gives full guidance on the subject.

➡ if the owner has a CO alarm and is suffering health symptoms and the alarm has previously activated on multiple occasions

You informed me about feeling unwell and that the CO alarm has previously activated. It is possible that you may have been exposed to carbon monoxide for some time and the symptoms you have experienced could be as a result of this exposure. My advice is that you visit your GP to explain your symptoms and that you may have been exposed to carbon monoxide, your GP might refer you to a specialist to assess whether you have any residual health effects. If ever your symptoms are really severe, you should attend A&E as quickly as possible.

➡ if the owner has no CO alarm

As a belt & braces defence, you are strongly advised to install a CO alarm certified to the BS EN 50291-2 standard. Visit the BSS website for advice about CO alarm selection [https://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/stay-safe/carbon-monoxide-\(co\)/co-alarms-save-lives/](https://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/stay-safe/carbon-monoxide-(co)/co-alarms-save-lives/) The CO alarm will protect not only the person(s) living on the boat, but any visitors

➡ if the owner a) has no CO alarm, and b) the appliance fault could be long term, and c) the owner is suffering health symptoms that could be CO related

You informed me about feeling unwell and that the appliance fault has been present for some time. It is possible that you may have been exposed to carbon monoxide and the symptoms you have experienced could be because of this exposure. My advice is that you visit your GP to explain your symptoms and that you may have been exposed to carbon monoxide, your GP might refer you to a specialist to assess whether you have any residual health effects. If your symptoms are ever severe, you should attend A&E as quickly as possible.