

CO Intervention before Dawn Saves Lives

Masimo Rad-57 helps first responders avoid mass casualty.

City / State	Raleigh, NC
Clinician Reporting	Chief, EMS Division, Wake County Dept. of Emergency Services —Skip Kirkwood, M.S., J.D., EMT-P
Patient Event	CO exposure at motel endangers 50+

> The Situation

Wake County EMS responded in the middle of the night to a vehicle parked on the side of the road with five occupants complaining of headaches, nausea, vomiting, confusion and tingling skin. The family had been driving in search of a hospital, but were so confused and ill they had to pull over to flag down help. Paramedics used the Masimo Rad-57 Pulse CO-Oximeter to assess the possibility of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and found all five family members had elevated SpCO measurements. Further inquiry revealed that they had been staying in a hotel that had many other guests.



> The Masimo Difference

Paramedics called in a CO emergency and the Raleigh Fire Department was dispatched to the motel where the family was staying. Upon arrival, firefighters found dangerously high CO levels in the air and immediately evacuated 50+ guests and staff. The source of the CO exposure was found to be a malfunctioning central HVAC unit, which was circulating CO throughout the entire building and poisoning the motel guests.

The Rad-57 was again used, this time by the fire department to triage all 50+ motel residents and staff. Eight residents with elevated SpCO measurements were transported to the hospital and treated promptly for CO poisoning.

The Rad-57's quick, noninvasive results enabled both EMS and fire department first responders to immediately diagnose the family and triage motel guests and staff. This allowed for rapid intervention when precious minutes could have made the difference between life and death.

“We believe that all 50+ people might have been dead at dawn if it were not for this lifesaving intervention.”

—Skip Kirkwood, MS, JD, EMT-P