

Gas Leak Wreaks Havoc in Colorado Home

The Masimo Rad-57™ Pulse CO-Oximeter Confirms CO Poisoning in Family Members

City / State	Breckenridge, CO
Clinician Reporting	Captain Zack Lynch - Red, White & Blue Fire District
Patient Event	Family members become ill from prolonged CO exposure

> The Situation

On a cold November afternoon, a family of six gathered in the warmth of their home to enjoy a cozy evening together. It wasn't long before the father, mother and another adult family member became severely nauseated. Alarmed by the rapid onset of their symptoms, the father drove the three of them to the hospital for examination, leaving behind three other male children ranging in ages from 16 to 22-years-old. Emergency room clinicians confirmed a CO poisoning diagnosis through a blood gas test and began treating the family. The clinicians then asked if there were any other family members at the residence and the parents told them about their boys still at home.

Clinicians immediately called 9-1-1 and Red, White and Blue Fire District were dispatched to the residence. Paramedics arrived to find the three boys huddled together, complaining of severe headaches and nausea. Paramedics used the handheld Masimo Rad-57 Pulse CO-Pulse Oximeter to measure carboxyhemoglobin (SpCO®) levels and confirmed that each of the boys had elevated levels averaging 17%.



Pictured are Red, White, and Blue Fire Department firefighter/paramedics John Zeising (left) and Steve Webster (right).

> The Masimo Difference

Firefighters then used an ambient air CO meter to check levels in the home. Upon entering the residence, firefighters were surprised to read that CO levels were at 80 parts per million. After further investigation, it was discovered that a gas leak in the home's crawl space was leaking CO fumes into the home's living space. Two large windows in the home were opened to ventilate the area.

The young men were transported to the hospital for further treatment and observation. Thankfully, all six family members were treated successfully and returned home that evening.

"The fast, accurate readings provided by the Masimo Rad-57 allowed paramedics to immediately administer life-saving treatment to the young men, without having to wait for hospital tests."
- Captain Zack Lynch