

## Missed Diagnosis Leads to Emergency Intervention

*Masimo Rad-57™ Prompts Accurate CO Poisoning Diagnosis*

**Location** Birmingham, Alabama  
**Clinician Reporting** Deputy Chief Jeff Parker - Minor Heights Fire District  
**Patient Event** 9-1-1 Call Uncovers Undiagnosed CO Poisoning

### > The Situation

Two emergency 9-1-1 calls were placed by family members reporting that an elderly woman had fallen and was exhibiting signs of a stroke. When Minor Heights Fire District paramedics arrived at the home, the family informed them that the patient had been to the doctor a few days prior complaining of persistent dizziness and nausea. But despite a thorough exam, the doctor could not provide a clear diagnosis.

Following routine procedure, the attending medic used the Masimo Rad-57 Pulse CO-Oximeter to assess the patient's oxygen saturation and pulse rate, only to discover that her carboxyhemoglobin (SpCO®) level was 15%. The medic diagnosed carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and immediately administered oxygen.



After fire operations, Minor Heights firefighters use the Masimo Rad-57 to assess their own SpCO levels and vitals to ensure carbon monoxide poisoning doesn't go undetected.

### > The Masimo Difference

With CO poisoning now revealed as the cause of the woman's recurring symptoms the fire department turned their attention to locating the source of the poisoning. They determined that the 80-year-old home the family lived in had a faulty gas heating system that was emitting very high levels of CO—a common occurrence for older homes in the historic housing district of Birmingham. The two other members of the household regularly used small floor fans in their rooms, which dispersed the CO fumes sufficiently enough for them to avoid CO poisoning, even under identical exposure conditions. The patient was transported to a local-area hospital with a hyperbaric chamber for further treatment.

***"Masimo Rad-57 was the key to securing an accurate diagnosis for this patient and preventing further illness."***

— Jeff Parker, Deputy Chief, Minor Heights Fire District