

CO Fumes Turn a Basement into a Deadly Den

Paramedics Use the Masimo Rad-57™ to Help Avert Disaster

Location Aurora, Illinois
Clinician Reporting Duane Love and Jim Rufer - Firefighters/Paramedics, Aurora Fire Department
Patient Event Astonishing CO Levels Sicken a Couple and Their Pets

> The Situation

A 29-year-old woman suddenly and unexpectedly begins convulsing from seizures, prompting her frightened boyfriend to call 9-1-1 for help. When paramedics arrived, they found the woman sitting upstairs in her kitchen still shaking and feeling ill, but presenting no further seizures. After interviewing her, they learned that she felt ill earlier in the week and her two dogs had vomited in the house for no apparent reason.

Aurora Fire Department paramedics routinely use the Masimo Rad-57 Pulse CO-Oximeter on all ambulance calls. Yet, to their surprise, the patient's carboxyhemoglobin (SpCO®) measurement was excessive at 26%. With such a significant amount of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning circulating in her blood, paramedics also measured her boyfriend and found his SpCO to be even higher at 30%. Oxygen treatment was immediately administered to the couple, as well as the two dogs. Paramedics then called in firefighters to check CO levels throughout the house.



Firefighters Duane Love and Jim Rufer routinely use the Rad-57 to uncover cases of unsuspected CO poisoning.

> The Masimo Difference

Firefighters were astonished to find CO levels of 1,350 parts per million in the basement den where the couple and their two dogs had been watching a movie. A faulty boiler was identified as the source of the CO exposure and promptly shut-off. Firefighters brought in a large fan to ventilate the house as paramedics transported the couple, along with the dogs, to a local area hospital for further treatment.

“This couple could have very easily fallen into a deadly sleep watching that movie in their basement den. Thanks to the Rad-57, we identified the CO poisoning and averted potential disaster.”

—Duane Love, Firefighter/Paramedic, Aurora Medic One Unit