

# Just in Time for Holiday Inn

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## The call: Hotel guests dizzy, nauseated

On August 13, 2006 at approximately 1000 hours, Calgary EMS responded to a sick person call at the Holiday Inn at Macleod Trail and 42nd Avenue S.E. Paramedics arrived to find guests in the hotel's banquet room who were dizzy, weak and nauseated. Paramedics quickly called the fire department when they suspected potentially deadly CO poisoning. "These were symptoms consistent with CO poisoning," said Calgary EMS spokesman Doug Odney. Upon arrival, firefighters confirmed high levels of gas throughout the building, especially in the kitchen where CO levels were over 1,000 ppm. Evacuations are triggered when CO concentrations reach 50 ppm.

## 200 guests evacuated, 16 hospitalized

Hotel guests eating breakfast, swimming in the pool, and some still sleeping were rushed outside while firefighters ventilated the building. Firefighters searched the hotel room by room to ensure all guests were outside. Once evacuated, paramedics assessed 45 patients and transported 16 people with CO poisoning to three city hospitals.

## Masimo Rad-57 quickly triaged patients

Using a Rad-57 Signal Extraction Pulse CO-Oximeter--which Calgary EMS had acquired just two weeks before--paramedics quickly triaged all 45 patients for CO poisoning. "Hopefully,

we'll see these devices soon on every ambulance," said Odney, crediting the equipment for the speedy triage.

In addition to the ability to speed treatment to the affected patients, using the Masimo RAD-57 allowed Calgary EMS to avoid tying up valuable pre-hospital and ED resources by unnecessarily transporting 29 unaffected persons

## Venting problem in mechanical room

Fire department spokeswoman Deb Bergeson said the source of the carbon monoxide appeared to be a venting problem in the hotel's mechanical room.

## City of Calgary Emergency Medical Services

Calgary EMS, an entirely ALS system, is responsible for over 96,000 emergency responses a year, and operates 44 advanced life support (ALS) response vehicles during peak times of the day when call volumes are highest. They operate 20 full-transport units 24 hours per day, 19 units 12 hours per day and a 24-hour air medical crew, stationed at the Calgary International Airport. Additionally, the department operates 3 Paramedic Response Units 24 hours per day. On certain time-dependent life threatening calls, the department receives backup by Calgary Fire Department First Responders.