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# Rapid Triage

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Battalion Chiefs  
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## The call: An ill person at printing company

On January 18, 2007, the Bridgeview Fire Department responded to the report of an ill person at a commercial printing operation. Upon arrival, fire and EMS personnel were met outside by company employees with vague flu-like symptoms that, given the environment, were thought to be the result of carbon monoxide poisoning or exposure.

## Masimo Rad-57 reveals elevated CO—29% in one patient

Using a Masimo Rad-57 monitor, the patients were quickly examined and triaged. EMS personnel determined that all patients had an elevated level of CO—the highest being 29%. While patients felt their symptoms were improving, their CO levels had not diminished to normal ranges; subsequently, three of the four patients were transported to area hospitals.

### Bridgeview Fire Department

Located in a suburb of Chicago, the Bridgeview Fire Department is a full time department providing fire, rescue, and ambulance services to the more than 5,000 households in the area. The department currently employs 1 fire chief, 3 battalion chiefs, and 35 firefighters/EMTs, and operates two strategically-located fire stations.

## 400 ppm CO level traced to faulty propane forklift

A check of the building with the four-gas monitor revealed a CO level exceeding 400 ppm. The source of the carbon monoxide was traced to a malfunctioning propane forklift operating in the building's storage area. The high CO level was mitigated through simple ventilation of the work area.

## Masimo's non-invasive diagnostic tool speeds patient assessment

The Rad-57 proved to be a valuable component of patient treatment. Its diagnostic capabilities aided EMS personnel in rapidly and accurately assessing patients exposed to elevated CO levels. The non-invasive nature of this technology is an asset to our department and the EMS field in general.

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# A Day for Making a Difference

Mark Brewer  
Masimo Corporation  
Account Executive

## The incident: Demo reveals danger

Masimo's Mark Brewer was recently performing a pulse-ox demo at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center for their Director of Respiratory, Karen Chief Onesalt and her supervisor Wanda. "When I placed our Rad-57 on Wanda's finger, her CO reading was 6," said Mark. Then I placed the probe on Karen's finger and got the same CO reading—a 6. Finally, I put the probe on my finger and got a 1. Linda Lopez, supervisor for OR/PACU, joined us and I placed the probe on her and got a reading of 1. Something didn't add up."

## Complaining of flu-like symptoms

Karen and Wanda had recently noticed feeling ill whenever they spent time in the break room. Both complained of flu-like symptoms. "As I continued my

presentation—Linda and I had now been in the break room for over 30 minutes—I stopped and retested our CO levels. Both of us were now reading a 3 and Linda began complaining that she was now feeling ill," said Mark.

## Mystery solved

"I asked Karen if the department was located next to a boiler or furnace room, and it turns out their office is next to the delivery dock," said Mark. "Karen called Facilities and they are now having the area tested for elevated CO levels. Karen was very thankful for what I had done for her today, but I responded that it's not what I did; it's what Masimo can do for your hospital. And yes, Karen and Linda are convinced that the hospital needs and will be converted to Masimo Pulse CO-Oximetry."