


Section: ALS Protocols  
Subject: CARBON MONOXIDE MONITORING  
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1. The following are situations where the CO monitor will be used:
  - a. Smoke inhalation in a fire scene patient.
  - b. Firefighter/Rescuer rehab
    - i. Especially at the scene of the fire or chemical incident involving methylene chloride.
  - c. Patients removed from confined space areas around a combustion reaction (e.g. gas stoves, furnaces, propane heaters, generators, fireplaces, charcoal or gas grills, gasoline or diesel engines, etc.).
  - d. Any exposure or suspected exposure to methylene chloride.
  - e. Any patients with symptoms suggestive of CO poisoning.
  - f. Any patients present at an incident with an active CO alarm.
  - g. At the discretion of the Medic-in-Charge, for any other situation in which the use of CO monitoring may be of potential benefit to the patient.
2. Any patient with SpCO levels exceeding 3% should be evaluated for CO exposure.
3. Any patient with signs or symptoms of CO exposure **OR** SpCO > 12% should be treated with 100% **oxygen** (to include HCFR ALS airway management) and be transported to a medical facility.
4. QA Points:
  - a. Patients with serious signs or symptoms of CO exposure or SpCO > 25% should be considered to have had a severe exposure.
  - b. ANY elevated CO level in a pregnant patient is dangerous and significant.
  - c. Patients who are smokers may have a higher baseline, but will rarely reach the level of SpCO 10%.