

Simple Asphyxiants & Carbon Monoxide Guideline

Inclusion

Suspected carbon monoxide or simple asphyxiant exposure

Exclusion

None

Pre-Decon

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| BLS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not enter a confined space to rescue an unresponsive person without wearing an SCBA or testing to confirm there is a nontoxic atmosphere with sufficient oxygen. Remove from source, if safe to do so. |
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Decon

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple asphyxiants & carbon monoxide are gases. Removing the victim from the source will be the only decon required for these exposures. |
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Post-Decon

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| ALS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supportive care with high flow O₂ via non-rebreather reservoir mask, or BVM if indicated Vital signs, primary & secondary surveys, insert IV/IO, apply cardiac monitor Consider CPAP or airway management for patients with symptoms of severe CO toxicity. Dysrhythmias <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat per ACLS guidelines If available, determine carboxyhemoglobin level using a Rad-57® Pulse CO-Oximeter® or another monitor that measures carbon monoxide. If needed, contact medical direction or poison control center for assistance. |
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Special Note:

- Severe effects: Dyspnea, respiratory failure, hypotension, dysrhythmia, chest pain, altered mental status, seizure, coma, etc.
- Simple asphyxiants decrease the concentration of inspired oxygen. Examples include carbon dioxide and nitrogen.
- Carbon monoxide binds to the oxygen binding sites of hemoglobin, decreasing the ability for hemoglobin to carry & release oxygen (O₂).