

**REGION I EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
STANDING MEDICAL ORDERS  
EMT – Basic**

**SMO: Carbon Monoxide Exposure**

**Overview:** Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas produced by incomplete combustion of carbon-containing fuels. Carbon monoxide does not physically harm lung tissue, but it causes a reversible displacement of oxygen in the hemoglobin. The result is low circulating volumes of oxygen. Tissues become hypoxic before oxygen is released from the hemoglobin to fuel the cells.

**INFORMATION NEEDED**

- Type of exposure to patient
- Scene is safe
- Patient respiratory symptoms

**OBJECTIVE FINDINGS**

- Headache
- Irritability
- Vomiting
- Chest pain
- Loss of coordination
- Cyanosis
- Loss of consciousness
- Cherry red skin color (late sign)

**TREATMENT**

- IMC
- Remove patient from source to fresh air.
- O<sub>2</sub> at 100% Non-rebreather Mask
- Keep patient quiet as possible to decrease oxygen requirements.
- Monitor level of Consciousness.
- Cardiac Monitor
- Monitor Vital Signs every 10 minutes.
- Treat per appropriate SOP for:
  - Cardiac Arrest
  - Cardiac Dysrhythmia
  - Pulmonary Edema
- Consider ALS transport

**Documentation of adherence to protocol:**

- Patient removed from CO environment
- 100% oxygen administered to patient

**PRECAUTIONS AND COMMENTS**

- **NOTE** Pulse oximeter gives false elevated readings in CO poisoning.

**REGION I EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
STANDING MEDICAL ORDERS  
EMT – Paramedic**

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- Treat per appropriate SOP for:
  - Cardiac Arrest
  - Cardiac Dysrhythmia
  - Pulmonary Edema
- Intubate if GCS < 8

**Documentation of adherence to protocol:**

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- 100% oxygen administered to patient

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