

The Transport Decision

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The call: Carbon monoxide alarm/man down

On January 16, 2007, in the midst of a brutal winter storm where over 1600 homes lost power, I was at the firehouse coordinating field teams to go door to door checking on our large population of elderly residents and answering phone calls from those who weren't home when the field teams stopped by. Among those in the field teams were my husband, Gary Gibbins (Assistant Chief and EMT), and my sons Jason (Captain and EMT) and Joshua (Lieutenant). At ~1730, a 911 call came in for a carbon monoxide alarm with illness/ man down. Gary & Jason responded immediately in the chief's vehicle with our rescue truck and pumper following.

Propane stove left on

Once on scene, they found a 76 year old male conscious but very confused. He was not complaining of anything, but was answering all questions inappropriately. The patient's wife stated she had just returned home and found her husband acting strange, so she opened all the doors and windows and called 911.

Gary noticed that the propane stove was on and shut it off. Jason went immediately to the patient and put him on 12 liters per minute of oxygen via NRB and then took the patient's vitals.



Greenfield Center Volunteer Fire Company No. 1

Greenfield Center Volunteer Fire Co. #1 is one of four departments that make up Greenfield Fire District, located an hour north of Albany, NY. Greenfield Center Fire Company has 40 members and operates two engines, one heavy rescue, one medical vehicle and one brush truck. They cover a mostly rural area and are usually first on scene with EMS calls, since the nearest ambulance is 5- 20 minutes away.

42% carboxyhemoglobin level, man flown to hospital for hyperbaric treatment

The Masimo Rad-57 showed that the patient's SpCO was 42%, so Jason increased the oxygen to 15 liters. Gary informed the crew on the incoming ambulance about the patient's CO level and while still en route, the ambulance called for a helicopter to fly the patient out. EMS continued giving the patient oxygen and prepared him for the short trip to the waiting helicopter. The patient was flown to Westchester Medical Center where he went to the hyperbaric chamber and fully recovered.

Masimo Rad-57 allowed fast decision on best method of transport

While we suspected that the patient was suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning, the Rad-57, allowed us to quickly identify just how severe the poisoning was and use that knowledge to select the most appropriate form of transport and destination for the patient. This decision was instrumental in saving his life.