

Press Release

Date: October 9, 2012

Contact: Dan Schultz, Captain

Phone: (920) 886-6200

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue Purchases Cutting-Edge Masimo Rad-57 Pulse CO-Oximeter™ for Detecting Carbon Monoxide in the Blood

New Masimo Rad-57 Pulse CO-Oximeter takes the 'ouch' out of testing patients for CO poisoning

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue now has the latest advanced technology available to quickly, easily and painlessly determine if a person is suffering from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. It's called the Masimo Rad-57 Pulse CO-Oximeter and it uses multiple wavelengths of light to measure the level of carbon monoxide poisoning in a person's blood on the spot, without a painful needle stick or blood draw. The department purchased five Masimo Rad-57s to test for carbon monoxide poisoning in persons at the scene of emergencies, as well as those who present with the signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, including firefighters and EMS personnel.

Neenah Menasha Fire Rescue will also be integrating these devices into their current rehabilitation program on fire and emergency incidents and Carbon Monoxide emergency responses. We will be able to better track the health of our responders and monitor their condition more in depth than we have been able to in the past. Monitoring Carbon Monoxide intake on our firefighters is critical in both their short and long term health.

These CO-Oximeters were funded 75% through grants obtained by the fire department. Additional items included in the grant were Warming and Cooling Packages, and a Shelter Package.

With the Rad-57, fire fighters, EMS professionals and ER clinicians have the ability to detect carbon monoxide poisoning on the spot in just seconds with the push of a button. Too often, even the most skilled first responders have missed the chance to treat carbon monoxide poisoning early because, until Masimo invented Pulse CO-Oximetry, there wasn't a fast, accurate and noninvasive way to detect elevated levels of CO in the blood.

Signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning mimic symptoms of the flu or even stress and have ranged from mild to severe headaches, shortness of breath, nausea, dizziness, and fatigue to altered judgment, confusion, mental clouding, fainting, and seizures. Shock, coma, and death have been shown to follow if the level of carbon monoxide in the person's blood continues to increase. When the proper diagnosis is not made, patients have the potential to inadvertently returned to a toxic environment where their symptoms returned or worsened.

Even a single high-level exposure, or prolonged exposure to low-levels of CO, has been shown to cause long-term heart, brain and organ damage. The long-term effects of CO poisoning have included: cardiac arrests, Parkinson-like syndromes affecting motor skills and speech, dementia, cortical blindness, acute renal failure, and muscle cell death.