

AHLS for Tox-Medics™ Simple Asphyxiants & Carbon Monoxide Guideline

Inclusion

Suspected carbon monoxide or simple asphyxiant exposure

Exclusion

Do not enter a confined space to rescue an unresponsive person without wearing an SCBA or testing to confirm a nontoxic atmosphere with sufficient oxygen.

BLS

Pre-Decon

- Remove from source

Decon

- Simple asphyxiants & carbon monoxide are gases. Removing the victim from the source will be the only decon required for these exposures.

ALS

Post-Decon

- Supportive care with high flow O₂ via non-rebreather reservoir mask
- Vital signs, primary & secondary survey, cardiac monitor, insert peripheral IV/IO
- Consider CPAP or airway management for patients with symptoms of **severe** CO toxicity.
- Dysrhythmias: Treat per ACLS guidelines.
- If needed, contact medical direction or poison control for assistance.

Special Note:

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