



NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Department of EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

TOPIC: Carbon Monoxide Gas Monitor	SOG #: 2.27
Status: DRAFT	Written: 6/25/2016
Written by: TJ Rippon, HAZMAT Officer	Revised:
Approved by:	Adopted: 07/01/2016

PURPOSE

This Operating Procedures establishes an added safety measure for EMS personnel operating on medical calls. It also establishes guidelines for the use of Drager Pac 5500 Carbon Monoxide Monitor which have been placed on each unit's Jump Bag.

SCOPE

Northampton County Department of EMS will monitor air quality for all personnel, patients, and bystanders while operating at an emergency scene. It is important for all personnel to understand the procedures for monitoring air quality while operating at an emergency scene.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The HAZMAT Officer will ensure that this SOG and equipment are implemented as outlined
2. Shift Captain(s) will ensure that all procedures are carried out by personnel.
3. All personnel are responsible for following the proper safety procedures outlined in this SOG

PROCEDURES

1. The Drager Pac 5500 CO Monitor is fastened to the EMS Unit's "Jump Bag"-
2. The monitor will be placed in the "ON" mode and remain in the "ON" position at all times.
3. The Drager Pac 5500 CO Monitor will not be removed from the Jump Bag unless it is determined to be non-operational by the HAZMAT Officer.
4. If the Drager Pac 5500 CO Monitor activates inside a structure during a medical call, the following shall apply:
 - a. The EMS Crew and any patients or bystanders shall exit the structure as safely as possible. The crew will be mindful of the patient's current medical complaint and condition.
 - b. The EMS Crew should immediately contact Dispatch and request Fire Department Response to investigate.
 - c. If the Drager Pac 5500 CO Monitor reading is 35 ppm or higher, all personnel- including patients and bystanders should leave the structure immediately.
5. The carbon monoxide readings should be documented on the Patient Care Report.
6. The Drager Pac 5500 CO Monitors will be inspected during the months of January and July by the HAZMAT Officer.



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GAS MONITORING INFORMATION

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, and toxic gas, which is produced by incomplete combustion of carbon-containing materials. Examples include vehicle exhausts, gasoline and diesel engines, portable gasoline powered generators, fire places, charcoal grills, propane powered heaters, and kerosene heaters.

Exposure to carbon monoxide impedes the blood's ability to carry oxygen to body tissues and vital organs. Hemoglobin's binding affinity for carbon monoxide is 300 times greater than its affinity for oxygen. As a result, small amounts of carbon monoxide can dramatically reduce hemoglobin's ability to transport oxygen.

Common symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure can include headache, nausea, rapid breathing, weakness, exhaustion, dizziness, and confusion. Hypoxia may also occur resulting in neurological and cardiac effects. Cardiac patients, infants, small children, pregnant women, and the elderly are particularly susceptible to the effects of carbon monoxide exposure.