

TOXIC INHALATION

ALWAYS USE BODY SUBSTANCE ISOLATION PRECAUTIONS

INDICATION

- Respiratory distress caused by inhalation of toxic gases
- Symptoms may include headache, malaise, dizziness, nausea/vomiting, seizures, coma; which may be associated with cherry- red color of mucous membranes (late sign)
- Consider carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning with any patient exposed to products of combustion

TREATMENT

- Rapid removal of patient from toxic environment
- High flow oxygen; give oxygen despite normal oxygen saturation levels
- ALS RMC
- If wheezing - **Albuterol** 5 mg in 6 ml **NS** via HHN, repeat as indicated
- CO monitoring, if available

High Suspicion of CO poisoning:

- Any patient (non-smoker) with CO level >9%
- Any patient (smoker) with CO level >12%

At Risk for CO poisoning (at risk=pregnant, children <6y, elderly, patients with history of respiratory problems)

- Any "at risk" patient (non smoker) with CO level >4%
- Any "at risk" patient (smoker) with CO level >8%
- Any patient with CO symptoms and confirmed source of CO

DOCUMENTATION – ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

- Nature of exposure
- CO levels
- At-risk criteria