

r-9 Toxic Gas Inhalation

PRIORITIES:

- ABCs
- Determine degree of physiologic distress:
- Maintain airway, provide oxygen and ventilatory support;
- Assure an advanced life support response;
- Field treatment limited; CODE 3 transport is indicated for severe respiratory distress.

Toxic Gas Inhalation

Respiratory distress caused by inhalation of toxic gases by history. Suspect carbon monoxide with history of fire in an enclosed space; symptoms of headache, dizziness which may be associated with cherry-red coloration of mucus membranes (late sign).

1. Remove patient from toxic environment with attention to safety of rescue personnel;
2. Insure airway is clear and assist ventilation when indicated;
3. OXYGEN – 10 liters/minute or higher. If Carbon Monoxide suspected, consider 100% oxygen via non-rebreathing mask;
4. Assist advanced life support personnel with patient packaging and movement to ambulance.