



What are the statistics?

Over 200,000 Americans die of sudden cardiac arrest every year. Up to 50,000 of these deaths could have been prevented if an AED had been available and someone had initiated the Cardiac Chain of Survival immediately at the time of the emergency.

About the size of a laptop computer, an AED is a computerized device that analyzes the heart rhythm and prompts a rescuer to deliver an electrical shock if needed. When AEDs are used in conjunction with cardiopulmonary resuscitation training (CPR), they can increase survival rates between 50-80 percent.

Management:

- Do we have AEDs in all of our facilities?
- Do we have a written program and procedures regarding the use of AEDs?
- Have our safety personnel been trained in the use of AEDs and CPR?
- Have we also provided training for designated workers in each facility in the use of AEDs and CPR?
- Are these designated workers prepared to assist on scene responders?
- Do we have a program that offers post event emotional assistance and mandatory counseling?
- Do we provide post-event lessons learned for managers, supervisors, first aid responders, and safety personnel?

Supervisors and Workers:

- Where are the locations of the AEDs in my work areas?
- Who can get training in the use of AEDs and CPR?
- Is there a backup person trained in the use of the AED if the designated individual for AED use is not present during an emergency?
- Do we have procedures and telephone numbers posted for notification of the proper people in the event of a health or safety emergency?

Recommendations for AEDs

- Make AEDs available at all facilities
- Provide appropriate training at each facility to assist on-scene responders in their use of AEDs and their integration into CPR.
- Have in place procedures to facilitate immediate notification of emergency medical services in the event of a health or safety emergency at such facilities.

After a Health or Safety Emergency

- Provide immediate post-event exposure screening for first aid responders.
- Give immediate post-event emotional assistance for personnel who may have experienced excessive levels of emotional stress.
- Provide mandatory counseling for personnel exposed to events that could lead to post traumatic stress.
- Prepare detailed lessons learned to educate managers, supervisors, and other involved personnel regarding considerations that may arise in conjunction with high stress, high hazard events.

Summary

Use of AEDs can reduce deaths from sudden cardiac arrest by 25 percent and when used together with CPR can increase survival rates by up to 80 percent.



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