

AED Safety



An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a vital tool used on people suffering from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). When SCA occurs, electrical impulses that power the heart become unorganized. This phenomenon is called fibrillation. Fibrillation is countered and a heartbeat is restored through the immediate use of an AED. AED units are proven technology, durable, have a long shelf life and are now affordable. Review the following AED safety tips with your employees.

Toolbox Tips

AED TRAINING REQUIRED

- Although the AED can be used by the layperson, training is required for effective deployment.
- Training can be obtained through the following agencies:
 - American Red Cross
 - National Safety Council
 - American Heart Association

DEPLOY AN AED WHEN:

- Employee is unresponsive.
- Employee is not breathing.
- Employee is found with no pulse.

AED UNITS IN CONSTRUCTION

- Place AED units in the following construction areas:
 - Jobsite office trailer
 - Supervisor vehicle
 - Owner's vehicle
 - Break or lunch areas
 - First aid station
- Provide a durable case to protect the machine from dust and water.
- Do not expose the AED to very cold weather.
- Routinely inspect the AED on a weekly basis.
- When an AED is removed for maintenance or repair, replace it with a loaner or backup unit.
- Train all jobsite employees in the location and summoning of the AED.

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