

CBS Corporate Safety and Environmental Affairs

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Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

According to the American Heart Association, sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the United States. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) estimates that approximately 10,000 sudden cardiac deaths occur each year while victims are at work.

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is a computerized medical device that analyzes a person's heart rhythm, determines whether a shock is needed, and delivers a defibrillating shock if necessary.

While a heart attack and cardiac arrest are both medical emergencies, a person suffering cardiac arrest typically has no warning symptoms and literally has minutes to live. The average response time to a 911 call is eight to twelve minutes, so an AED can mean the difference between life and death.

An AED, which lasts an average of five to ten years, can cost between \$1,500 and \$3,000 plus the expense to train employees and maintenance and battery replacement costs.

The benefits of having an AED are obvious. Ensuring that AEDs will function properly at time of deployment requires their inclusion in a maintenance and inspection program. It is essential to confirm that the power supply and self-check function are operational and that no error codes are displayed.

These problems typically occur due to hardware or software failures related to faulty circuit boards, software bugs, incompatible/damaged cables, or issues with battery management. Implementing an ongoing maintenance and inspection program can help to mitigate these problems.

If you have any questions about purchasing an AED for your workplace, please contact David Templeman, Director, Environmental Health and Safety, at David.Templeman@cbs.com.

OSHA's Position on AEDs

There is no federal OSHA requirement for employers to provide AEDs, but all 50 states have enacted laws or regulations regarding the use and placement of AEDs in the workplace.

To learn more about the laws and regulations governing AEDs in your state, please access this [document](#) developed by the National Conference of State Legislatures on Cardiac Arrest and Defibrillators.

All states include AED usage in their Good Samaritan laws, so anyone using an AED to render assistance is protected.