AEDs – Hospitality Meeting Kit

WHAT'S AT STAKE

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) play a crucial role in ensuring guest safety. These life-saving devices are strategically placed in hotels, resorts, and other hospitality venues to respond to sudden cardiac emergencies promptly. Rapid deployment of AEDs can significantly increase the chances of survival for guests experiencing cardiac events, reinforcing the hospitality sector's dedication to providing a safe and secure environment for all patrons.

WHAT'S THE DANGER

While Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are essential for guest safety in the hospitality industry, some risks are associated with their deployment and use. Firstly, improper maintenance or inadequate training of staff members could lead to incorrect usage or malfunction of the device, potentially exacerbating a medical emergency rather than resolving it.

Relying solely on AEDs without comprehensive emergency response protocols may create a false sense of security, neglecting other critical aspects of emergency preparedness such as CPR training and access to emergency medical services. Therefore, while AEDs are valuable tools for cardiac emergency response in hospitality settings, establishments must mitigate these risks through rigorous training, regular maintenance, and comprehensive emergency response plans.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

When to Use an AED:

Understanding when to use an AED is vital for its safe and effective application. Knowing the signs of sudden cardiac arrest

– unconsciousness, abnormal breathing, and no pulse – helps you determine if the situation requires an AED.

- Use an AED when a person is unresponsive, not breathing normally, and shows no signs of circulation.
- It is specifically used for victims of sudden cardiac arrest, where the heart's electrical activity becomes chaotic.

How to Use an AED:

Knowing how to use an AED is crucial because every minute counts during a cardiac arrest. AEDs are designed for easy use, but proper training equips you to act confidently and effectively in a stressful situation.

Using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) effectively involves several steps:

1. **Assessment of the Situation:** Assess the environment for safety and ensure there are no hazards present that could harm you, the victim, or bystanders. Check for responsiveness and signs of breathing.
2. **Activate Emergency Medical Services (EMS):** If the victim is unresponsive and not breathing normally, or if there are no signs of circulation (such as movement or coughing), immediately activate EMS or instruct someone else to do so.
3. **Retrieve and Prepare the AED:** If an AED is available, retrieve it promptly. Turn on the device and follow the visual and auditory prompts.
4. **Prepare the Victim:** Expose the victim's chest and remove any clothing or jewelry that may interfere with the electrode pads.
5. **Apply the Electrode Pads:** Follow the instructions provided with the AED to place the electrode pads correctly on the victim's bare chest. One pad should be placed on the upper right chest, just below the collarbone, and the other on the left side of the chest, just below the armpit.
6. **Analyze the Heart Rhythm:** Allow the AED to analyze the victim's heart rhythm. Ensure that no one is touching the

victim during this process.

7. **Deliver a Shock (if advised):** If the AED detects a shockable rhythm (such as ventricular fibrillation or pulseless ventricular tachycardia), it will prompt you to deliver a shock. Ensure that no one is touching the victim and press the shock button as instructed.
8. **Perform CPR:** If the AED advises, or if no shock is advised, immediately resume CPR, starting with chest compressions.

Safety precautions:

- Always ensure the safety of yourself, the victim, and bystanders before using an AED.
- Avoid using an AED in environments where there is a risk of explosion or flammable gases (e.g., near gasoline spills).
- Do not use an AED on a victim who is wet or lying in water, as it poses an electrocution risk.
- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions carefully and do not deviate from the recommended procedures.
- Regularly check the AED for signs of damage or malfunction and ensure that it is properly maintained and serviced according to manufacturer guidelines.

FINAL WORD

AEDs are powerful tools that can significantly increase survival rates in cardiac arrest emergencies. While they’re designed for ease of use, understanding when and how to use them properly can make all the difference.