AEDs – Hospitality Stats and Facts

FACTS

Here are some hazards associated with AEDs in the hospitality industry:

1. **Misuse:** A significant hazard is the potential for misuse by untrained individuals. If someone without proper training attempts to use the AED incorrectly, it could result in ineffective treatment or even harm to the victim.
2. **Lack of Maintenance:** AEDs require regular maintenance, including battery checks, pad expiration checks, and overall device functionality assessments. If these maintenance tasks are neglected, the AED may not function correctly when needed, leading to delays in providing life-saving treatment.
3. **Accessibility Issues:** While having AEDs available in hospitality settings is crucial, their accessibility can sometimes pose challenges. AEDs should be placed in easily accessible locations with clear signage. If AEDs are not readily available or if guests and staff are unaware of their locations, response times during emergencies may be delayed.
4. **Potential Liability:** Hospitality establishments that provide AEDs must ensure they comply with legal requirements and industry standards. Failure to do so could result in legal liabilities if an incident occurs, such as an injury due to improper maintenance or inadequate training.
5. **Psychological Impact**: Witnessing or being involved in a medical emergency can be traumatic for guests and staff alike. Hospitality employees who are expected to respond to emergencies using AEDs may experience stress and anxiety, especially if they are not adequately trained or prepared for such situations.

STATS

- According to the American Heart Association (AHA), approximately 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the United States each year. Having AEDs readily available in public places, including hotels, can significantly increase the chances of survival for individuals experiencing cardiac arrest.
- Research suggests that prompt defibrillation with an AED, combined with cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), can increase the survival rate of cardiac arrest victims by up to 40%. However, studies also indicate that AEDs are not used as often as they could be in out-of-hospital cardiac arrest situations.
- A study highlighted the importance of having AEDs in hotels, citing that 74% of cardiac arrest victims who received AED treatment survived, while only 4% survived waiting for paramedics without AED.
- Approximately 40,000 cardiac arrests occur in Canada every year, with 80% of them occurring outside of a hospital setting. The probability of survival declines by 7% to 10% with each passing minute, and defibrillation improves survival rates by up to 30% if delivered in the first few minutes. AEDs combined with Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) can increase survival rates to 50% or more.