Automated External Defibrillators Stats and Facts

FACTS

1. Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a condition whereby the heart suddenly stops beating and the victim will certainly die unless specific medical measures are undertaken immediately.
2. One major difference between a heart attack and sudden cardiac arrest is that a heart attack is caused by a reduction or blockage in the heart's blood supply– during which the person is conscious–whereas with sudden cardiac arrest, the victim always loses consciousness.
3. Do not wait to get the victim medical attention. Studies have shown that if defibrillated within the first minute of collapse, the victim's chances for survival are close to 90 percent.
4. Because of their ease of use anybody can use an AED. That being said, someone with training should be the one to use the AED on a victim if present.
5. Documented regular inspections of AEDs are critical. AEDs have indicator lights that either show green or red. A red light or flashing red light indicates some problem with the AED.

STATS

- The survival rates of individuals suffering cardiac arrest decrease by approximately 7 – 10% every minute that defibrillation is delayed.
- The use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) can save the lives of 30% or more of those who suffer cardiac arrest.
- When defibrillation is delayed, survival rates decrease to approximately 50%.
- The earlier defibrillation occurs, the better the prognosis.

- Research shows that people who have first aid training can reduce their own personal injuries by as much as 30%.
- A human heart can cease beating within 4 minutes after breathing stops.
- Permanent brain damage can occur within 4 to 6 minutes after breathing stops.
- Average ambulance response time is 8 to 12 minutes.