



What You Need to Know about Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Did you know that each year in the United States, 250,000 adults die from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) that occurs outside a hospital?

Did you know there is a cure for most cases of SCA--prompt delivery of an electric shock to the heart?

Did you know that defibrillators are most effective at restarting the heart when they are used within the first few minutes after collapse?

Did you know that the average SCA survival rate in the U.S. is seven percent, but in some settings, survival rates are as high as 50%?

Did you know that automated external defibrillators (AEDs) can be used safely and effectively by almost anyone with just a few hours of training?

Did you know that state and federal Good Samaritan laws protect persons who use AEDs in good faith?

Did you know that the target timeframe from the time the victim collapses until delivery of the first shock is five minutes, and even the best emergency medical services (EMS) systems cannot always get to the scene of an emergency this quickly?

Did you know that more and more community responders are being trained and equipped with AEDs, including public safety personnel (police, fire and EMS), security guards, flight attendants, athletic trainers, lifeguards, ship crews, ski patrol and retirement community staff?

Does your community have an effective, integrated system for rapid delivery of defibrillation? If you or a loved one collapsed right now, how long would it take before a defibrillator was on the scene?

To learn more about how you can help improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest in your community, contact the National Center for Early Defibrillation. Why? *Because so many more can survive!*[™]