About Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) and Its Dangers

- Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) causes 350,000 deaths per year (approximately one every 1.7 minutes). Source: American Heart Association (AHA)
- SCA is the most frequent (#1) killer of adults in the U.S. and SCA deaths outnumber those from lung cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, house fires, hand guns, traffic accidents and AIDS combined. Sources: National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Fire Administration, AHA
- Seventy-five percent of SCA events occur in the home. Sixteen percent occur in community areas such as malls, sporting events and schools. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), AHA

About Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

- Use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) can increase the chance or surviving SCA by 70%. The chance of survival from SCA decreases 7-10% for every minute that passes for someone in SCA. Sources: Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) Publications 3185, 3317; AHA
- Widespread use of Automated External Defibrillators could save approximately 40,000 lives each year in the United States alone. Sources: AHA, Philips
- More than 60% of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests have shockable rhythm that can be treated with an AED. Source: AHA
- Chicago’s O’Hare Airport has 49 AEDs. In the first 10 months of the AEDs being present, they were used 14 times and saved nine lives. Source: AHA
- More than 17% of Fortune 1000 companies, eight out of 10 major airlines and four professional sports teams rely on Philips HeartStart® Defibrillators. Source: Philips (www.philips.com/heartstart)

How an AED Works

- AEDs are relatively simple to use and, being fully automated with voice commands, nearly eliminate user error. AEDs detect abnormal heart rhythms in the victim, and will administer a shock only if necessary.
- When the Philips HeartStart® AED does not recommend shock and CPR is needed, it will coach the bystander through the proper administration of CPR, even if that person is not trained in the technique.
- AEDs perform self-checks and are nearly maintenance-free.

ABOUT FLEX MED

Flex Med, established in 2002 in Lafayette, La., offers three distinct services: CPR certification for healthcare providers and bystanders; supplemental medical staffing for healthcare facilities; and now offers Philips HeartStart® defibrillators (AEDs).

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