OSHECCOM ISSUE PAPER

SUBMITTED BY: Southern Region OSHECCOM
SUBMITTED TO THE OSHECCOM THROUGH: Southern Region OSHECCOM
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SUBJECT: Permitted Users of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

BACKGROUND: The FAA has purchased numerous life-saving AEDs and deployed them to select facilities. Current guidance mandates medical staff control the use of these devices. Many of the facilities that have been equipped with AEDs are occupied 24 hours a day with medical staff only available during the day. In the event that an employee suffers sudden cardiac arrest when medical staff is not on duty or otherwise unavailable, FAA policies (or lack of policies) will become the only barrier in administering this potentially life-saving care. Immediate guidance granting access to all personnel is required.

FACTS *(Information obtained from the American Heart Association and Agilent Technologies)*:

1. The AEDs are located at facilities that are occupied 24 hours/day (ARTCCs, ATCTs, etc)
2. Only medical personnel, working day shifts exclusively, have access to the AEDs. Personnel working other shifts are left unprotected.
3. Conclusive data indicates personnel with little or no training can safely operate an AED. AEDs have been installed in Chicago's O'Hare International Airport for approximately one year. In that time, 11 lives have been saved using the AEDs. Sixty-eight percent of the users were lay people who never used an AED and had no prior training on its usage.
4. To date, 48 states provided immunity from civil liability resulting in injury from the use of an AED by <u>any</u> person. Without this protection, liability would be limited anyway for 2 reasons. First, the AEDs are designed to take all the decision making away from the lay person and second without defibrillation the victim will be dead in a matter of minutes.
5. The new AEDs conduct self diagnostic tests daily, weekly, and monthly, and will alarm when service is required. The first scheduled maintenance required on the Agilent Technologies' AEDs the FAA purchased is to replace the battery at the end of 5 years. Agilent Technologies' AEDs are fully warranted for the first five years.
6. Liability issues exist if a preventable death occurs due to lack of access to available AEDs.
7. Several airports, airlines, hotels, stadiums, theatres and other high occupancy facilities have been equipped with AEDs. In most cases, the AEDs are available for use by lay people.
8. After onset of sudden cardiac arrest, each minute without defibrillation results in a 10% decrease in the chance of survival. Without defibrillation death from sudden cardiac arrest typically occurs 5-7 minutes after onset. Thus, without treatment the victim will die. Ambulances are usually equipped with AEDs but response time is often too long.

IMPACTS/ANTICIPATED BENEFITS:

1. Maximization of opportunity to save lives of employees
2. Helps foster an altruistic working environment

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The committee shall immediately petition AAM to develop a policy granting all employees access to available AEDs (and appropriate training). Implementation guidance shall be developed by AAM and medical personnel shall provide oversight to field programs.