



SAFETY ALERT # 25



July 24, 2007

In the interest of keeping everyone safe CAMSAFETY will be sharing injury information with preliminary root cause analysis. This information is intended to make you think not assess blame. If you have an incident that you would like to share send us the information and we will pass it along.

AED SAVES A LIFE

What Happened

A 49-year-old welder collapsed from an apparent heart attack while at work. Coincidentally there was a CPR/AED recertification class taking place within the facility. The victim was found on the shop floor not breathing and without a pulse. A co-worker had noticed the welder turn blue and pass out and had alerted other employees who are trained to respond to medical emergencies before paramedics arrive. "His neck and face were beyond blue; they were a different color," one of the responders said. "But I guess blue would be the best choice of colors to describe him." He was also suffering from a gash to the head which he apparently sustained as he fell. The AED was attached to the victim and a shock was administered. A pulse was then detected but the victim was still not breathing. After a few artificial breaths the victim started breathing on his own and regained consciousness. He is doing well after having a stint inserted in one of his aortic arteries which was 100% blocked. The victim had had no symptoms at all up to the heart attack which, without the timely use of the AED, would have been fatal.

Prevention:

- Train all employees in first aid, CPR and AED.
- Train employees to respond to all types of emergencies. The real thing can be quite frightening and confusing, training will give them something to fall back on in a crisis.
- Purchase and maintain an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) as part of your readily available emergency equipment.

A Few Facts

- The American Heart Association estimates that this year 330,000 Americans will die of sudden cardiac arrest before reaching a hospital.* That's 900 deaths each day; one death every 1.5 minutes.
- Victims of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) treated by Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) and CPR within 3 to 5 minutes after collapse can have an increased survival rate of 74%.
- Chances for survival without CPR and PAD treatment decrease by seven to 10% every minute. Without such treatment the survival rate drops to 5%.



Special thanks to Sarah Gothard, RN, BSN, Executive Director of CPR Connection of North America
(www.cprconnection-na.com)