

## Toolbox Talk # 49

# DEFIBRILLATORS



Company Name:	
Job Name:	
Date:	

### Key Points

1. **Having defibrillators on-site** can mean the difference between life and death in the event of sudden cardiac arrest.
2. **OSHA recommends AEDs** (Automated External Defibrillators) as a critical part of workplace first aid programs.
3. **Rapid defibrillation within minutes** significantly increases the chances of survival for a worker in cardiac distress.
4. **Training employees to use AEDs** ensures quick and effective response during emergencies.
5. **Easy access to defibrillators** on large or high-risk construction sites improves emergency preparedness.
6. **Combining CPR with defibrillation** provides the best chance of restoring a normal heart rhythm.
7. **Regular maintenance** and testing of AED units ensure they function properly when needed.
8. **Clearly marking AED locations** and including them in emergency action plans helps workers respond faster in a crisis.

For every minute without defibrillation,  
survival chances decrease by **7-10%**



## Top 5 defibrillator risks...

1. **Delayed Response** – Without an AED, intervention may be impossible.
2. **Lower Survival Rates** – Survival chances drop without defibrillation.
3. **Increased Fatalities** – Lack of AEDs raises the risk of death.
4. **Longer Emergency Response** – Delays in help can be fatal.
5. **Lack of Preparedness** – Untrained workers may be unable to act.



1. Do I know where the nearest AED is located?
2. Am I trained to use a defibrillator in an emergency?
3. Is the AED easily accessible and in working condition?
4. Does my team know who is trained to use it?

Pulse unseen,  
a silent dread,  
Electric jolt,  
life instead!

## Summary

Defibrillators on construction sites can save lives during cardiac emergencies. Workers should know AED locations, ensure they are maintained, and receive proper training. Quick access and response significantly improve survival rates, making AEDs a critical part of workplace safety and emergency preparedness.



OSHA stresses the importance of having defibrillators (AEDs) available on construction sites to respond to sudden cardiac arrests. Employers should ensure AEDs are accessible, maintained, and that workers are trained to use them in emergencies.

### Key Regulation:

Under 29 CFR 1910.151(b), OSHA requires employers to provide medical services, including first aid supplies, in case of emergencies. While specific AED requirements are not mandatory, the General Duty Clause (Section 5(a)(1)) mandates a safe work environment, which includes the provision of life-saving equipment like defibrillators.



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### ATTENDEES

Print Name:	Signature:

Additional Comments: